DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Use fuel judiciously, avoid foreign travel: Modi

Amid West Asia crisis, PM urges reviving practices followed during Covid

Page 9

NCRB: Highest number of accidents during evening rush hours

Page 9

Government of Bharat
SOMNATH
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सोमलिङ्गं नरो दृष्ट्वा सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते।
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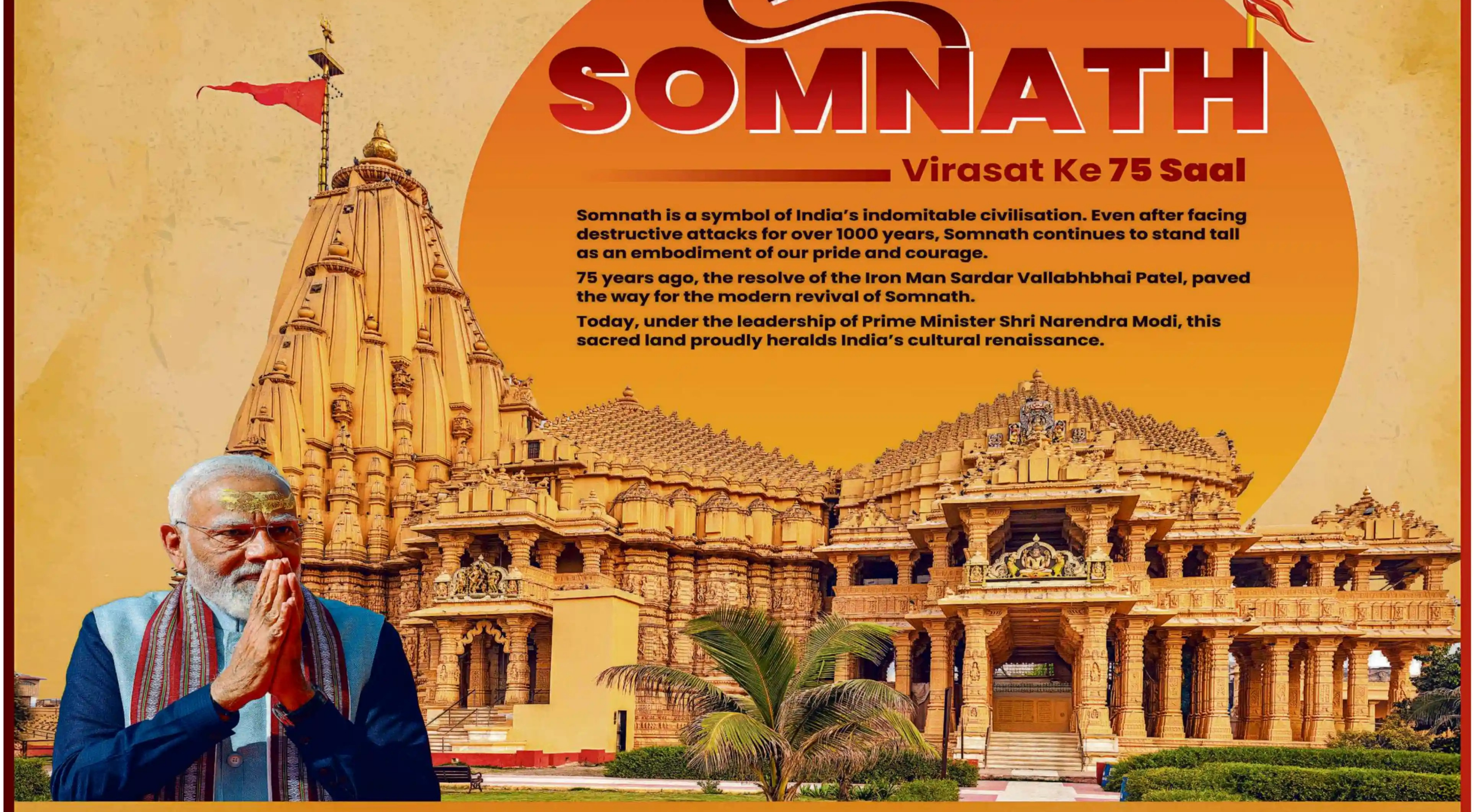

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Mantra Writing in the Somnath Booklet
Narration of Stories Associated with Somnath

Shri Somnath Temple Complex, Prabhas Patan | 8th –11th May 2026

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– Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (Chairman, Shri Somnath Trust)

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CBC 09101/13/0001/2627

Civic polls after six years; hopes of ward-level accountability revived

5 mayors, 369 corporators under new governance structure

ASHWIN BM & NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The announcement of the Bengaluru civic polls after nearly six years has rekindled hopes of accountable and accessible governance, and opened the floodgates for political aspirants eyeing a return of ward-level politics.

The upcoming polls could also send a signal of what the city feels about the Congress government's three years of rule, which included a slew of announcements from the tunnel road project to reductions in the buffer zone, tweaking of building plans, and restructuring of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

In the revised governance structure, Bengaluru will have five mayors and 369 corporators.

Several civic activists and former councillors called the much-delayed election a "victory of democracy" that will finally bring back elected representatives to address local issues ranging from potholes and water shortage to garbage and flooding.

"Bengaluru has been functioning without elected corporators for years. The quality of work has been consistently poor. One engineer is being made responsible for more than one ward. Citizens have nobody directly accountable for civic issues in their wards. This election is long overdue," said L Jeevan, joint secretary of Karnataka Rashtra Samiti, a new-age political party.

> **AMIT KUMAR**
> (Beautiful Begur citizens' collective)
>
> "Without corporators, there is no one to hold accountable for the city's mounting woes. Under bureaucrats, the infrastructure has got no better. Elections will finally provide proper representation.

Former corporator and Congress leader Abdul Wajeed welcomed the State Election Commission's (SEC) announcement, noting the city had seen elections in the monsoon season even in 2015. He added that elections would create representation in the wards so that people could be reached during civic emergencies.

For many residents, the lack of a local representative has led to a vacuum in governance.

Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), congratulated the SEC for resisting "unreasonable demands" from the state government and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to postpone the polls.

"Citizens have waited too long for democratic local governance. The absence of elected corporators has caused the city's civic infrastructure to decline sharply," he said.

Amit Kumar from the Beautiful Begur citizens' collective noted that without corporators, there is no one to hold accountable for the city's mounting woes. "Under bureaucrats, the infrastructure has got no better. Elections will finally provide proper representation," he said.

However, not everyone is convinced that the June timeline will be met.

> **SANDEEP ANIRUDHAN**
> (Citizens Agenda for Bengaluru)
>
> "I am not sure they will actually conduct the elections. They might delay them again, citing reasons like delimitation.

Sandeep Anirudhan, convener of Citizens Agenda for Bengaluru, expressed doubt about the government's intent. "I am not sure they will actually conduct the elections. They might delay them again, citing reasons like delimitation," he warned.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Lecture: 'Social Justice: Constitutional Perspective'; Justice HN Nagamohan Das, R Ravindra, Appareddy Harish, HG Balagopal, Sapna N to attend; Organised by Vivekananda College of Law; Vivekananda College of Law, Gayathrinagar; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Valedictory Function: 58th Children's Summer Cultural and Entertainment Camp; K Mohandev Alva, MK Sundarraj, Bhavana S Reddy to attend; All Karnataka Children's Association; Fort; 4 pm.

Theatre Fest: Plays 'Onde Samsara' and 'Hennina Manassu'; Ekalavya Foundation; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sermon: 'Padma Purana' by Holavanahalli Srinivasacharya; Organised by Vijaya Madhwa Sangha; Vijaya Madhwa Sangha, Gangadhara Layout, Vijayanagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.0°C
Minimum	22.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	35%
Sunset (May 11)	6:36 pm
Sunrise (May 12)	5:56 am
Moonrise	12:50 am
Moonset	12:41 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Panel set up to fix C&D waste fee excludes residents, developers

BSWML committee to frame debris disposal fee

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has formed a 15-member committee to recommend a user fee for the scientific disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste in the city.

The move comes even as BSWML has already engaged a private agency to provide the service.

Notably, the committee has no representation from the very users who will eventually pay the fee — property owners, builders or developers.

According to the circular, the committee is headed by the chief executive officer (CEO) of BSWML. Its members include commissioners of the five city corporations, senior engineers from the GBA, BDA, BWSSB, BMRCL, PWD and KSPCB, along with representatives from two private C&D waste-processing units.

The committee, which has reportedly met several times over the past month, is expected to prepare an action plan for C&D waste management, recommend user fees for different categories of waste generators, and frame regulatory provisions to curb indiscriminate dumping of debris.

Once the recommendations are accepted, city corporations are likely to levy a user fee for disposal of construction debris, which sources said may be collected at the time of building plan approvals. BSWML is also developing a mobile application through which users can book debris collection and transportation services.

Construction debris dumped in the open. DH FILE PHOTO

What has raised concerns is the absence of citizen representatives in the panel deciding the charges. Even organisations such as CREDAI and the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) are not part of the committee.

'Familiar pattern'

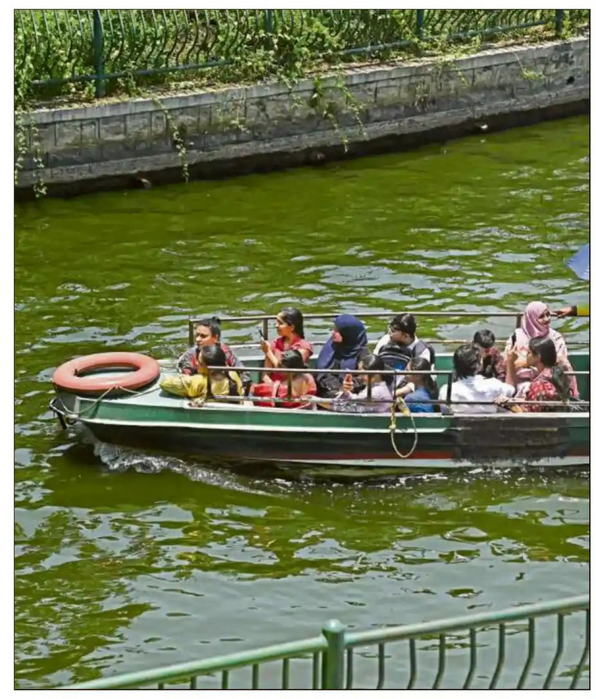
Srikanth Narasimhan, general secretary of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), said the exclusion of citizens reflects a familiar pattern.

"Even when the user fee for garbage disposal was fixed, citizens were not consulted. By the time the fee came into force, people had very little time to respond as it was introduced at the start of the financial year," he said, adding that the garbage cess had created confusion and bulk waste generators ended up paying the charges.

> **Committee may be revised**
>
> When contacted, BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said more stakeholders could be included in the committee tasked with fixing the user fee for C&D waste.
>
> "Some corporations have already started discussions on this issue. If citizens are not included in the committee, I will issue directions to revise it," he said.

DH had earlier reported that BSWML had engaged private firm Chaitra Ventures to handle 4,750 tonnes of debris. BSWML will pay a tipping fee of Rs 760 per tonne for collection and transportation of 1,750 tonnes of waste, and Rs 967 per tonne for the remaining 3,000 tonnes, which includes waste processing. The agency is expected to recover these costs from end users.

SUMMER OUTING



Visitors enjoy a leisurely boat ride along the waterway at Cubbon Park, as families and tourists flock to the city's green spaces. AFP

Bizman loses Rs 5L after phone hacked via WhatsApp invite

BENGALURU, DHNS: Downloading a wedding invite on WhatsApp cost a furniture shop owner Rs 5 lakh after cyber fraudsters gained remote access to his mobile phone, police said.

The 42-year-old Nayandahalli resident downloaded a file named "Wedding Apk File Invitation" sent from a number belonging to an acquaintance. The moment he clicked on the APK file, it handed remote access of his device to the fraudsters.

Multiple transactions were then carried out in his bank account without his knowledge, draining Rs 5 lakh.

By the time he realised what had happened, the money was gone. He lodged a police complaint suspecting a cyber-attack.

Police have registered a case under Section 318 (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections 66C (identity theft) and 66D (cheating by personation using computer resource) of the Information Technology Act, and launched an investigation.

Now, travel on BMTC's AC buses to Channapatna

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Authority (BMTC) has introduced eight new 'Vajra Vistara' air-conditioned Volvo bus services between the Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) and Channapatna.

Former Bangalore Rural MP and BAMUL president, DK Suresh, and Channapatna MLA CP Yogeshwara flagged off the services at Majestic on May 8.

The BMTC has been launching bus services to neighbouring towns after the Transport Department expanded its operational area up to 40 km beyond the city limits late last year.

In March this year, it launched Vajra Vistara services connecting Majestic to Ramanagara and Banashankari to Kanakapura. The Channapatna service is an extension of the Ramanagara route.

The Majestic-Ramanagara route (V-EX-RMN-1, which sees 32 daily trips with six buses, has served 33,000 passengers so far. Following public demand, the service is being extended to Channapatna.

The Majestic-Channapatna bus service (V-CPT-1) is being operated with eight buses and 44 daily trips.

The first service from Majestic is at 7.20 am and the last at 9.40 pm. The first service from Channapatna is at 5.15 am and the last at 7.05 pm.

The fare, inclusive of toll charges and GST, is Rs 105. The Ramanagara-Channapatna fare is Rs 25.

The BMTC is also offering passes: daily (Rs 180); weekly (Rs 1,000), and monthly (Rs 2,700).

The corporation also plans to introduce AC bus services connecting Bengaluru to Malur, Vijayapura and Solur in the coming months.

The BMTC insists that it will not compete with the KSRTC, which operates bus services to satellite towns and far-off cities.

According to the BMTC, the KSRTC operates ordinary (non-AC) services to these neighbouring towns, while it's planning only AC services.

In April 2023, the BMTC launched Volvo bus services to Chikkaballapur — its longest route at the time — with the KSRTC's permission.

The BMTC operates 6,275 bus services with 65,952 trips daily, covering 13.06 lakh km.

Reproductive cancers dominate India's tally; women bear the brunt

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Reproductive cancer accounts for 16% of all cancer cases in India, making it the single largest cancer burden in the country.

Among women, the share is far higher: nearly half of all women diagnosed with cancer have a reproductive cancer.

Ovarian cancer, though second to cervical cancer, poses a growing challenge because it produces no clear early symptoms and has no reliable screening test.

"One of the largest obstacles in treating ovarian cancer is that there are no effective screening tests available. These tests have greatly helped in detecting cervical cancer and reducing mortality rates," said Rohit Raghunath Ranade, Senior Consultant and Clinical Lead, Gynaecologic Oncology, at a private hospital.

He added that screening methods such as transvaginal ultrasound and CA-125 blood tests exist, but their sensitivity and specificity are too low for routine population-based screening.

Doctors say obesity and sedentary lifestyles are fuelling reproductive cancer cases in women by weakening the immune system and driving abnormal cell growth.

"Sedentary lifestyles and obesity, together with metabolic disorders, have become the main factors driving gynaecological cancer development. It leads to insulin resistance, which in turn leads to both Polycystic Ovary Syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes. People need to understand that lifestyle-related factors have become the top modifiable risks for disease prevention, although genetics and age still matter," said Dr Suman Singh, Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Dr Shobha, Head of the Department of Gynaec Oncology at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, said ovarian cancer was once seen primarily in older and postmenopausal women, but cases in the 35 to 40 age group are rising.

"Though there is no strong literature to support that women diagnosed with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOD) at a younger age go on to develop cancer, patients' history in clinical practice points to such disorders having an impact," she said.

Delayed diagnosis

The absence of clear early symptoms is another factor that delays diagnosis.

"Usually, early stage ovarian cancer has either no symptoms or a few vague general symptoms like bloating, indigestion and lower abdomen pain, so early diagnosis gets missed. Most ovarian cancers are high grade tumours, which means they grow rapidly and the window for early diagnosis is very small. Only those genetically prone through confirmed family history, around 5 to 10%, are advised yearly scans and tumour markers," said Dr Abhilasha Narayan, Consultant, Gynaec Oncology, Robotic and Laparoscopic Surgery.

> **What experts say**
>
> - Reproductive cancers account for 16% of all cancer cases in India, the highest among cancer categories.
> - Ovarian cancer is emerging as a major concern due to lack of clear symptoms and reliable screening tests.
> - Doctors say existing screening methods like transvaginal ultrasound and CA-125 blood tests are not effective enough for mass screening.
> - Obesity, sedentary lifestyles and metabolic disorders are being linked to rising reproductive cancer cases.
> - Doctors are witnessing a rise in ovarian cancer cases among younger women aged 35–40.
> - Most ovarian cancers are aggressive, leaving only a small window for early detection.
> - Only women with strong family history or genetic risk are advised annual scans and tumour marker tests.
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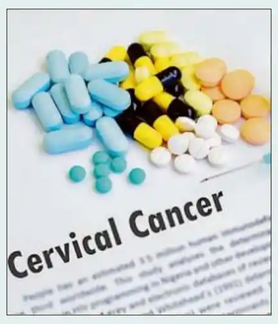
> 
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SIR being used to selectively exclude Muslim voters: Prashant Bhushan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Supreme Court advocate Prashant Bhushan on Sunday accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of functioning in a partisan way, saying its observers are "actively campaigning" for the BJP in some states.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan addresses the event on SIR on Sunday.

Speaking at a seminar on delimitation, the Women's Reservation Bill and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, organised by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights–Karnataka in the city, Bhushan suggested that SIR is used to selectively exclude voters, specifically those from the Muslim community.

Expressing concern over the transparency of the electoral process, Bhushan said the ECI does not upload Forms 17C and 20 data online containing polling booth-wise voter turnout and vote count details, despite several requests.

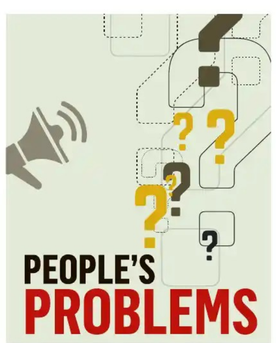
Although counting all VVPAT slips would only take a few hours, he said it has not been done. "How do we know EVMs are not manipulated unless VVPAT slips are counted?" he asked.

He slammed the central government for amending the law to exclude the Chief Justice of India from the panel to select the election commissioners, dubbing the process a "farce". He said the ECI has become more partisan and less fair.

Regarding delimitation and women's reservation, Bhushan warned that the southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh could lose Parliamentary representation since they have succeeded in population control. This would shift the balance of power towards the northern states, he said.

He also said delimitation could be used for political gerrymandering by redrawing the constituency boundaries to favour the ruling party.

Calling the move an "all-round onslaught on electoral democracy", he urged citizens to organise peaceful protests to defend democratic institutions and voting rights.



Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Chains and cones placed along the road restrict pedestrian and vehicular movement.

Pedestrian space shrunk

Plastic cones and chains are increasingly being used to encroach upon pedestrian space on Kariappa Road leading to MNK Park.

In the photograph, chains can be seen placed both along the roadside and across it, restricting space for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

Though the area appears to be "reserved", residents say no ambulance has ever been seen parked there; at times, only a car covered with a dust sheet occupies the spot.

A similar unauthorised parking reservation can also be seen at the end of Ratnavilas Road. Such encroachments reduce road space, affect visibility and inconvenience pedestrians.

The authorities should take action against these illegal road space reservations.
Nagappa

Asphalt dug-up roads in Jayanagar

Most roads in Jayanagar 8th Block, from 37th A Cross to Sangam Circle, have been dug up for the laying of new drainage pipes and manhole chambers.

Though the pipes have been laid, the dug-up stretches and areas around the manholes have only been filled with jelly stones and have not been asphalted yet.

The jelly stones are now coming loose, causing inconvenience and safety concerns. Several two-wheeler riders have reportedly fallen and suffered injuries. Senior citizens and pedestrians also find it difficult to walk on roads strewn with gravel and stones. In addition, the digging has left the area covered in mud and dust.

With the RV Road interchange metro station located near Jayanagar 8th Block, traffic in the area has increased significantly. Due to congestion on the main roads, motorists are increasingly using interior cross roads as alternative routes.

I request the Bengaluru South City Corporation authorities to asphalt these roads before the onset of the monsoon to prevent further accidents and inconvenience to residents and commuters.
Giridhar R
8th Block, Jayanagar

Bengaluru Monday, May 11, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 130 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Royal Challengers prevail in a thriller

Bhuvi, Krunal shine as champs eliminate Mumbai Indians

Page13

Business

Nat'l Technology Day: Focus on responsible innovation P.10

Nation

India signs 8 MoUs with Trinidad and Tobago P.9

State

Unclear how long K'taka CM will remain: PM P.3

World

Bangladesh seeks friendly ties with India P.12

I will be the only power centre in TN: CM Vijay

Declares new era of secular social justice after taking oath

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

C Joseph Vijay took oath as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Sunday in true filmy style by delivering the entire oath as if it were a single shot take. Nine others also took the oath as ministers.

Dressed in a black blazer and black pants, 51-year-old Vijay was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar after 10 am at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

"Let us provide fresh governance, new governance. This is a new beginning, a new era where real secular social justice starts now," Vijay said, pointing to his watch.

"There is only one power centre, headed by me. There are no other power centres on this side or that," Vijay declared to a roaring reception from his fans.

He also promised that his government would protect minorities.

As he said, "C Joseph Vijay ennum naan..." the crowd erupted in celebration, and he stunned everyone by delivering the entire oath at once, without paper. The Governor even checked with him to confirm whether he had delivered the actual oath, and Vijay assured him that he had indeed done so.

The oath-taking ceremony turned into a theatre, with Vijay taking selfies with his guest — Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi — his Cabinet colleagues, and the crowd that had gathered to witness his ascent to the chief minister's chair.

Rahul sharing the stage with Vijay, whom he called "brother," also signified emerging political equations, even as leaders of the Left parties sat in the front row. However, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan was absent and there were no representatives from the DMK and AIADMK.

Vijay dumped his luxurious SUVs for the Toyota Innova provided by the government to reach his office, Fort St George, where he took charge and accepted wishes from officers and colleagues.

A medium-sized portrait of Dravidian legend C N Annadurai hung on the wall of his office. He also made a quick visit to Periyar Thidal to pay respects to the Dravidian legend, one of the five ideologues of his TVK, at his resting place.

In a break from tradition, Vijay signed three files – granting 200 units of free electricity for households consuming up to 500 units bi-monthly, setting up an elite force for women's safety, and establishing an anti-narcotic task force to crack down on drugs – and delivered an emphatic speech at the stadium.

▸ Vijay, Page 4

TVK chief C Joseph Vijay after taking charge as the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on Sunday. PTI

Chief minister gets going

Free Electricity — Provision of 200 units of free electricity for domestic users

Women's Safety — Creation of a dedicated force for the protection of women

Drug Eradication — Establishment of a specialised task force to tackle drug menace

White Paper — CM promise to publish white paper on the state's finances

"You have placed such a big responsibility on my hands. I request you to give me some time. In a step-by-step manner, I will try to fulfill everything that I have assured

C JOSEPH VIJAY, Chief Minister

Jana Nayagan has to walk the talk

The transformation of C Joseph Vijay from Tamil cinema superstar to chief minister of Tamil Nadu is nothing short of a blockbuster. Now that the people have seated him in the chief minister's saddle, it is time to walk the talk.

Details on Page 8

Udhayanidhi to be the Leader of Opposition

Former deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has been elected as the DMK Legislature Party leader, making him the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. Former ministers K N Nehru will be the deputy leader and E V Velu will be the whip.

Details on Page 8

Cong still deadlocked on Kerala CM

The Congress took its decision to ditch the DMK and side with the TVK in Tamil Nadu within hours, but has delayed naming its chief minister in Kerala, as the issue has divided party workers.

Details on Page 8

Govt to interlink family trees to curb fraud

Without interlinking, arbitrary affidavits lead to court cases

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka plans to interlink family trees, or *vamsha vruksha*, in a bid to curb fraud and litigation, effectively building a genealogy database of households across the state.

A family tree is used to settle disputes in inheritance and establish legal heirs for transfer of properties. Citizens draw up their family tree and apply for a certificate (attestation) with the revenue department.

"I've been toying with this idea for the last one-and-a-half years, that there should be a household genealogy," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *DH*.

"Currently, our family trees are not interlinked. Let's say a father got a family tree done. Next, his son will get a family tree done. The two aren't linked," Gowda explained.

Gowda said connecting family trees should have been done decades back. "If this was done 30 years ago, we could have prevented so many court cases and mitigated corruption," he said.

Family trees are based on self-declaration and affidavits, the minister said. "Our officials go by the affidavits. There's no way to know if a person faked a family tree and got a property transferred to someone."

Gowda has been talking to e-Governance officials about this. "I've asked officials to build an architecture. Family trees will be linked or connected prospectively," he said.

The project is dovetailed with the government's plan to build an economic profile of every household, which will be linked to the Kutumba database.

▸ Family trees, Page 4

Family trees attested

2023-24	6,05,674
2024-25	6,19,820
2025-26	7,55,281
Total:	19,80,775

Source: Revenue Department

Currently, our family trees are not interlinked. Let's say a father got a family tree done. Next, his son will get a family tree done. The two aren't linked.

KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA, Revenue Minister

Iran proposes permanently ending war on all fronts

DUBAI, AP: Iran has sent its response to the latest US ceasefire proposal via Pakistani mediators and wants negotiations to focus on permanently ending the war, Iran's state-run media said Sunday.

Iran seeks to end the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon, where Israel fights the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, and to ensure the security of shipping, its state TV said.

A Pakistani government official involved in the talks said Islamabad has received Iran's response and the same has been sent to the US. The official did not provide further detail about the proposal.

The White House had no immediate comment about Iran's reply. President Donald Trump is giving diplomacy "every chance we possibly can before going back to hostilities," the US ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, told *ABC*.

Women mourn the death of people in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon. AP

Washington's latest proposal addressed a deal to end the war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and roll back Iran's nuclear program, an issue that Tehran would rather discuss later.

Meanwhile, Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, "issued new and decisive directives for the continuation of operations and the powerful confrontation with the enemies" while meeting with the head of the joint military command.

FMCG firms bracing for price hikes again, Page 10

D Sudhakar: A politician with business acumen

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

D Sudhakar

Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 66, was a prominent leader of the Jain community and is one of the few Karnataka politicians who served as a minister in both Congress and BJP-led governments.

A native of Chitradurga district, Sudhakar won his first election in 2004 from his hometown Challakere on a Congress ticket.

Following delimitation, when the constituency was reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs), Sudhakar shifted his base to Hiriyur.

Denied the Congress ticket, he contested as a rebel and won the polls in 2008.

With the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP winning 110 seats (majority mark is 113), the BJP resorted to 'Operation Lotus', following which some Opposition MLAs joined the saffron party.

Sudhakar and other independent MLAs like P M Narendraswamy, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Goolihatti Shekhar also supported the BJP government.

In the Yediyurappa Cabinet, Sudhakar was the social welfare minister.

▸ Sudhakar, Page 4

10-year-old B'luru boy killed in leopard attack near MM Hills

MYSURU, DHNS: A 10-year-old boy from Bengaluru was killed in a leopard attack near Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar district on Sunday morning.

The boy was identified as Harshith, son of Suresh and Pavithra.

The incident occurred when the boy was trekking along with seven other family members to Nagamale after visiting the Male Mahadeshwara temple at M M Hills on Saturday, officials said.

According to forest officials, the leopard emerged from the dense forest and pounced on the boy. The animal dragged the child into the forest and killed him.

On information, the forest department officials rushed to the spot and sent the body for a postmortem. Later, the body was handed over to the family.

Conservator of Forest, Chamarajanagar circle, Malathi Priya, has banned the padayatra to the MM Hills temporarily.

Now, the pilgrims will have to take a KSRTC bus from Taalu Betta to reach the MM Hills.

Forest department officials, along with the Leopard task force, have started a combing operation and are using three drones to trace the leopard, Malathi Priya added.

Meanwhile, the pilgrims have urged officials to enhance the safety measures to protect them from attacks by the wild animals.

CRACKED OPEN

People walk across the dry Sabarmati riverbed in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Sunday. PTI

Statue vandalism cases on rise in WB

KOLKATA, DHNS: In less than one week since the BJP came to power in West Bengal, the state has witnessed a slew of incidents where statues and portraits of politicians and cultural icons have been vandalised or defaced.

The latest incident has been reported from the South Dinajpur, where miscreants vandalised the statues of Santhal Rebellion icons Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu on Friday night. BJP and Trinamool Congress leaders traded charges, accusing each other of the incident.

The episodes started with the vandalism of a statue of Communist icon Vladimir Lenin in Murshidabad on May 5.

Details on Page 8

CROP HERITAGE

Seed saviours plant hopes for resilient farming

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The agriculture department of the Karnataka government has formalised a framework to protect the state's vanishing wealth of indigenous seed varieties.

Under the 'Beeja Parampara' initiative, the state has identified and incentivised over 490 farmers who have been preserving thousands of indigenous landraces ranging from salt-tolerant coastal paddy to drought-resistant dryland millets.

The initiative follows a SEED-5C Model; Conservation, Cultivation, Consumption, Commerce and Collaboration of indigenous seed (*desi*) varieties that can contribute to food sufficiency, better nutrition and improved health outcomes.

"Unlike modern hybrid seeds that require heavy chemicals, these indigenous landraces are naturally tough. They survive droughts, resist local pests and are packed with more nutrition than commercial rice," a senior official said.

Financial incentives ranging from Rs 15,000 to Rs 10 lakh have been distributed based on the number and rarity of varieties conserved. So far, nearly Rs 1.3 crore has been disbursed to farmers.

Syed Ghani Khan of Mandya has conserved over 1,350 paddy varieties and 116 mango cultivars. Similarly, 84-year-old B K Devarao from Dakshina Kannada has spent six decades protecting 240 paddy varieties.

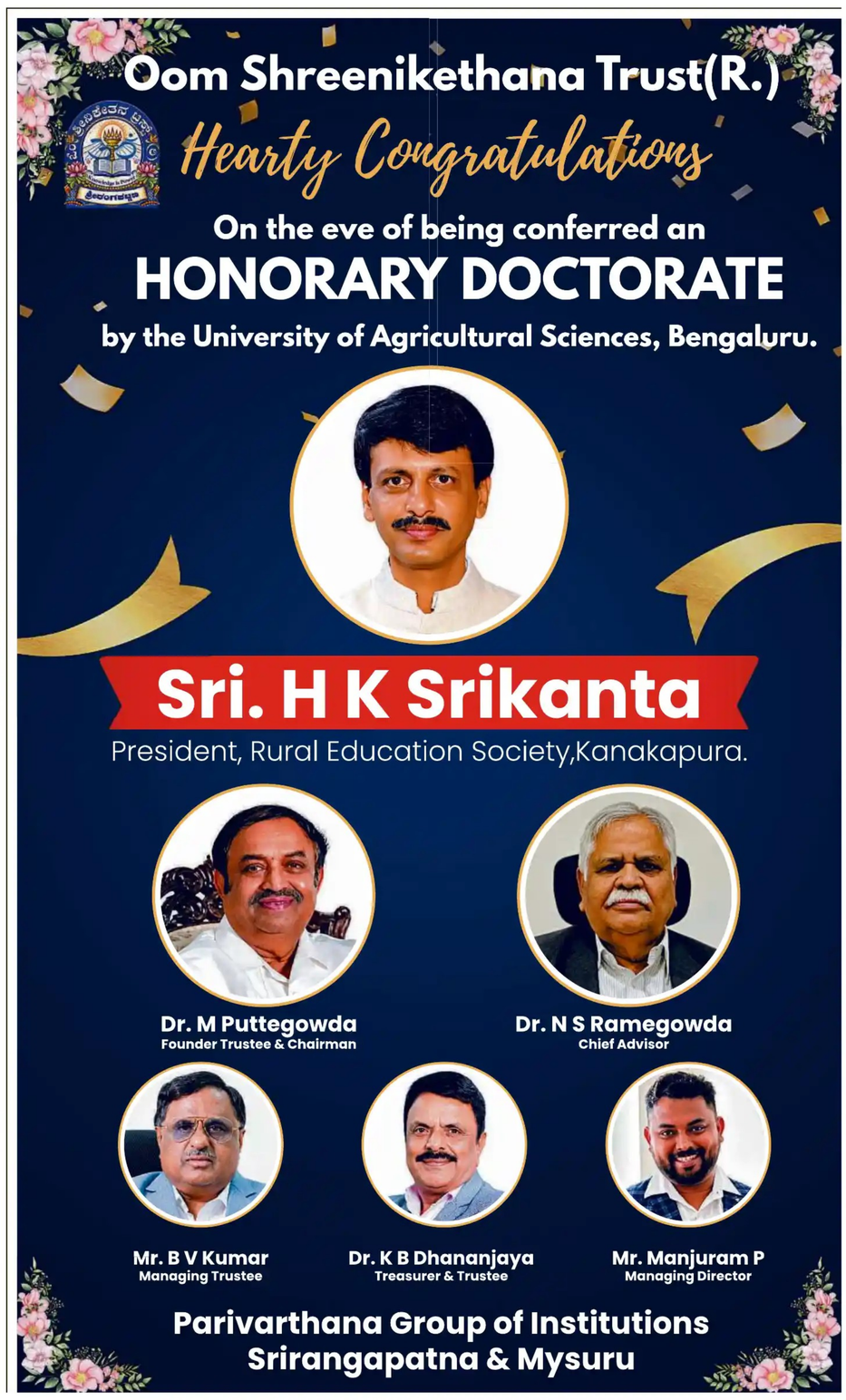
In addition, he maintains a rich diversity of crops, including 5–6 varieties of arecanut, 50 types of jackfruit, 5 varieties of nutmeg, 4 types of pepper, 25 varieties of Indian yam, 6 varieties of cassava, and over 100 medicinal plants.

▸ Seeds, Page 4

SEED-5C Model of Beeja Parampara

Conservation: Storing them in community seed banks	**Consumption:** Creating a market so people actually buy and consume
Cultivation: Getting seeds back into the fields	**Commerce:** Establishing viable market linkages

Collaboration: Partnerships among farmers, researchers and institutions



CPCB reminds Karnataka on sand mining rule

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka is among several states which have not responded to the Centre's direction to evolve appropriate mechanism for assessment of recovery of compensation from those engaged in illegal sand mining and utilisation of the said funds for restoration of the environment.

The Central Pollution Control Board told the National Green Tribunal that though directions were issued to environment authorities across the country in June 2021, response has been received received from only 11 states and Union territories. The remaining state pollution control boards, including the one in Karnataka, were issued a reminder in March, it said. The CPCB was responding to an application which that alleged that Himachal Pradesh government's existing practice deviated from tribunal's directions.

Ex-servicemen to be recruited as prison warders in Karnataka

1,300 posts vacant across 54 prisons in state

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

The Department of Prison and Correctional Services (DPCS) is set to recruit 550 ex-servicemen as warders across state prisons to enhance security and ease pressure on existing staff.

Director General of DPCS Alok Kumar said the state government had granted permission for the recruitment. More than 6,000 ex-servicemen have applied, and the recruitment process will be held shortly.

Of those recruited, 45 will be posted at Mysuru Central Prison and 250 at Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara. They will receive a monthly salary of Rs 30,000 including GST, with a take-home salary of Rs 28,800.

There are about 1,300 vacant warder posts across 54 prisons in the state, including nine Central Prisons. General recruitment of permanent staff has been delayed due to internal reservation issues.

"We have got permission to recruit 400 warders on a permanent basis. We are waiting for the notification regarding internal reservations," Kumar said.

He said the general recruitment process, including selection, physical fitness test, examination, and nine months of training, would take two years.

To address the shortage immediately, the department is recruiting ex-servicemen up to 45 years of age.

"They will be trained, experienced, and more disciplined to handle the sensitive roles and responsibilities of serving in prisons," Kumar said.

Candidates must be able to run three km in 20 minutes and produce a clearance report from the jurisdictional police station confirming no criminal background. After a brief training in prison administration lasting a few weeks, they will be posted at prisons.

The finance department has granted rule 4(g) exemption under the KTPP Act, allowing direct recruitment on a contract basis at a cost of Rs 20 crore per annum.

The 54 prisons in the state house 15,000 inmates, including 700 women. Mysuru Central Prison houses 754 inmates, including 45 women. In Mysuru Central Prison alone, 56 posts are vacant, including one post each of jailor, driver, barber, and electrician, and 52 warder posts. The prison utilises the services of 29 inmates for night patrolling.

More than 6,000 ex-servicemen have submitted applications for the posts of warders in the prisons of Karnataka.

SC directs Union govt to take over benami properties in Bengaluru

Sets aside K'taka High Court's 2024 judgement

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said the judicial process cannot be invoked to validate, protect, or perfect that which the law itself declares impermissible, as it directed the central government to take over suit properties in Bengaluru upon finding it to be benami in nature.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said stern enforcement of the statute, wherever warranted, alone would send a clear message that benami transactions would neither receive judicial indulgence nor escape statutory consequences.

The court pointed out that it is not uncommon in legal history that whenever the law seeks to prohibit, human ingenuity seeks to disguise.

"From the use of proxies in earlier times to modern layered transactions, the separation of real ownership from ostensible title has long been employed as a device to evade legal restraints. Benami transactions are but a contemporary manifestation of that tendency, where legality is outwardly simulated though never truly intended. Courts, however, are concerned not with the façade, but with the substance that lies beneath it," the bench said.

In its judgment on May 8, the court set aside the Karnataka High Court's 2024 judgment, which allowed an appeal filed by D A Srinivas against rejection of his suit to claim properties held in the name K Raghunath, an employee of his companies, on the basis of a Will. Raghunath was murdered on May 04, 2019, and a CBI probe was pending in the matter. Srinivas was stated to be an accused in the murder case.

The appeal before the court was filed by Manjula, wife of Raghunath, and their sons, claiming their rights over the properties.

Upon examining the contention, the court noted the plaintiff pleaded that there existed a fiduciary relationship between him and the deceased K Raghunath. According to the plaintiff, acting in trust and confidence, he entered into various MOUs with K Raghunath, transferred funds to him for the purchase of agricultural lands in the latter's name, to be held for the benefit of the plaintiff, thereafter converted into non-agricultural lands, and ultimately reconveyed or transferred in favour of the plaintiff. For the said arrangement, a consideration of Rs 2,50,000 per acre was allegedly fixed.

Manjula and her sons claimed the properties were self acquired by Raghunath. They also relied upon another Will to claim their rights.

The court pointed out Section 25 of the Hindu Succession Act provides that a person who commits murder or abets the commission of murder shall be disqualified from inheriting the property of the person murdered, or any other property in furtherance of the succession to which such person committed or abetted the commission of murder.

In the case, the court noted, since Srinivas or his company was disentitled from directly purchasing the lands, a mechanism was devised whereby he allegedly funded the purchase in the name of another, caused the lands to be converted for non-agricultural use, and thereafter sought transfer in his own favour.

While directing the Centre to appoint an administrator and take over the properties within eight weeks, the court clarified that since the judicial determination declaring the transaction to be benami has attained finality, no court would entertain any claim in respect of the subject properties arising out of or founded upon such benami transaction.

PESKY PYTHON

A 15-foot-long python was found near the drain in VTU College at Ambewadi at Dandeli in Uttara Kannada district on Saturday night, leading to fear among students and people alike. Forest department officers and snake rescuer Razak Shah rushed to the spot. Shah, along with officers, successfully caught the reptile, which was later released in the nearby forest.

SWR slow on train regularisation despite Rly Board nod

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway has finally regularised 12 pairs of special trains in its jurisdiction, more than 2 months after the Railway Board directed it to do so.

But 7 more pairs of trains are yet to be regularised, including 2 connecting destinations outside Karnataka and one linking Goa with coastal Karnataka.

In a March 5 circular, the Board directed that 19 pairs of special trains operated by SWR be regularised "from an early convenient date", listing the matter as "most urgent". Of the 19 pairs of trains, 9 were to run using idle rakes of other trains.

Special trains are meant to clear extra rush. They attract higher fares (20-30% more), operate on old, poorly maintained coaches and run many hours late as regular trains are prioritised. Many long-distance specials often run 11-12 hours late. The Board approved regularisation after consistent demand and good occupancy.

But SWR took a long time. It initially regularised only one train (Yeshwantpur-Hosur-Yeshwantpur MEMU), starting Mar 16, while others ran as specials. While SWR is now regularising 11 more pairs of trains, 7 more remain untouched.

SWR's chief public relations officer Manjunath Kanamadi told *DH* that regularisation was a "work in progress" & assured remaining trains would be attended to "within a month".

K N Krishna Prasad of Karnataka Railway Vedike said SWR should have regularised all 19 trains soon after Board's directive.

"In last 2 months, passengers have been charged extra as these services ran as specials. That's not fair," he said.

TRAIN REGULARISATION

From May 11
- 06581/06582 KSR Bengaluru-Channapatna-KSR Bengaluru (56229/56230), daily
- 06525/06526 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU (66597/66598); daily
- 06527/06528 Bangarapet-SMVT Bengaluru-Bangarapet MEMU (66537/66538); daily
- 06583/06584 KSR Bengaluru-Hassan-KSR Bengaluru MEMU via Nelamangala (66525/66526); six days a week
- 06517/06518 Yeshwantpur-Hindupur-Yeshwantpur Passenger (56531/56514); daily
- 07329 Hubballi-Vijayapura MEMU (66501); daily

From May 12
- 06919/06920 Hubballi-Vijayapura-Hubballi Passenger (56919/56920); daily
- 07330 Vijayapura-Hubballi MEMU (66502); daily

From May 15
- 06213/06214 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru MEMU (66539/66540); tri-weekly
- 06587 Talguppa-Yeshwantpur (16555); weekly
- 06539 SMVT Bengaluru via Kalaburagi (16559); bi-weekly

From May 16
- 06588 Yeshwantpur-Talguppa (16556); weekly
- 06207/06208 Bengaluru Cantt-Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantt (16563/16564); weekly
- 06539/06540 SMVT Bengaluru-Bidar-SMVT Bengaluru via Kalaburagi; (16559/16560); bi-weekly
- 06540 Bidar-SMVT Bengaluru via Kalaburagi (16560); bi-weekly
- 06207 Bengaluru Cantt-Kalaburagi (16563); weekly

From May 17
- 06208 Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantt (16564); weekly

Decree for restitution can't disentitle wife to maintenance: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The existence of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights does not automatically disentitle wife from claiming maintenance, the high court said in a recent judgement. Justice K Manmadha Rao said this while enhancing maintenance awarded to the wife, a resident of Tumakuru, and her 2 sons.

The couple had married in 2012, and their children are now aged 13 and 11 years. It was submitted that due to circumstances unconducive to reside with husband, the wife was constrained to live separately. She alleged ill-treatment and harassment by her husband and his mother.

In 2024, a Tumakuru court granted monthly maintenance of Rs 8,000 each to the wife and two children along with Rs 5,000 as litigation expenses. The wife and 2 sons filed a review petition before the HC, contending that the husband, a central government employee, is drawing Rs 50,000 salary and has agricultural income from property and house in Pavagad taluk.

The husband said the family court had allowed his application for restitution of conjugal rights and directed his wife to join him. He said despite this order, she had not joined him. It was submitted that he needs to take care of his mother, suffering from old age ailments.

Justice Rao said proceedings under CrPC Section 125 (maintenance) are summary in nature and intended to prevent destitution. The scope of inquiry is limited to whether wife is unable to maintain herself and whether husband has neglected or refused to maintain her, the court said.

On husband's submissions, it observed that wife has demonstrated sufficient reasons for living separately.

"The family court's finding that petitioner no.1 (wife) deserted respondent (husband) is perverse and not supported by proper evidence. It is well settled that right to maintenance is a statutory right and can't be defeated on technical grounds. The husband's obligation to maintain wife and children is a continuing obligation," the judge said, adding non-compliance with decree for restitution cannot, by itself, be treated as ground to deny maintenance unless it's established wife has refused to live with husband without sufficient cause.

The court directed the husband to pay Rs 10,000 a month to wife and continue maintenance to each child as directed by family court till they attain majority.

School Edu Dept to align UDISE+ codes

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to ensure optimal utilisation of funds, the state government is aligning the Unique District Information System for Education+ (UDISE+) codes of the more than 317 PM Shri schools and pre-university colleges with schools located either on the same premises or in its proximity. Schools thus aligned will be renamed PM Shri Joint Government Primary/High School and PU college.

The order issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy, however, stipulates that all the PM Shri schools will continue functioning out of the same location even after the UDISE+ codes have been aligned with other schools.

In the order the department stated, "For better governance, human resource and proper utilisation of funds, administrative approval has been given to align the UDISE+ codes of 317 non-PM Shri junior/upper primary/high school/pre-university colleges."

Krishna basin to face dry spell as Maharashtra yet to release water

BELAGAVI, DHNS: With Maharashtra not releasing water from its reservoirs, the Krishna River is gradually running dry, triggering concern among people living in villages along the river basin.

A huge quantity of water was lost after the 22nd gate of the Hipparagi barrage was damaged. During the corresponding period last year, Hipparagi had 1.76 tmcft of live storage. This year, on May 10, only 0.31 tmcft of live storage remains. This is expected to suffice only for two weeks.

If water is not released into the Krishna River from Maharashtra, more than 130 villages in Belagavi district are likely to face drinking water shortage. Villages in Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts will also suffer from water scarcity.

Ministers have repeatedly stated that an all-party delegation would be taken to meet the Maharashtra chief minister to press for the release of water into the Krishna River from Maharashtra reservoirs. However, the delegation has not yet visited Maharashtra.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in a letter dated April 22, 2026 addressed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, had urged that two tmcft of water each be released into the Krishna River from the Koyna or Warana reservoirs in Maharashtra and into the Bhima River from the Ujjani reservoir to meet the drinking water needs of people and livestock in north Karnataka districts.

However, there has been no response so far.

DHiE
NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

DHiE Schools: ICSE Results 2025-2026

Congratulations to the students of DHiE schools on their meritorious performance in class 10 examinations

NAME OF THE SCHOOL	LOCALITY	1st Place NAME	1st Place %	2nd Place NAME	2nd Place %	3rd Place NAME	3rd Place %
Appollo National Public School	Banashankari	NM Hansika	97.4	Dhruthy Sanghvi	96.8	Shachi Bhat	96.4
Appollo National Public School	Banashankari	Revanth Naidu	97.4				
Carmel High School	Basaveshwernagar	Ananya Naveen	98.2	Tejas Jain M	98.0	Nishanth H	97.8
Carmel High School	Basaveshwernagar					Pramath Hebbar	97.8
Carmel School	Padmanabhanagar	Siri C S	98.8	Shaik Ishrat Jahaan	98.40	Vaaruni C Debur	98.2
Carmel School	Padmanabhanaga			Purvika Satyajit	98.40		
Clarence High School	Richards Town	Geona Samuel	98.2	Shaunak Kar	97.0	Siddhan Srihari	97.0
Deccan International School	Padmanabhanagar	Jnanada Bhat	99.4	Siri Sharada T V	98.8	Jayanth S Topannavar	98.0
Embassy Public School	Magadi Main Road	Ananya K H	96.0	Bhuvan R . Mohare	94.2	Adhya V	93.0
Embassy Public School	Magadi Main Road			Yashmitha J	94.2		
Fusco'S School	Indiranagar	Janis Jacob	95.4	Eivya Valan	95.2	Ruth Elina Lobo	93.2
Ganga International School	Nelagadaranahalli	Benakesh. S. Matad	96.2	Gagandeep. L	93.2	Ganashree. M.A	92.6
Maxwell Public School	Kalyannagar	Armaan Prakash Menon	90.0				
MES Kishore Kendra Public School	Vidyaranyapura	Aditya Guruprasad Bharadwaj	98.6	Nishika G S	97.6	Charvi Aravind	97.0
MES Kishore Kendra Public School	Vidyaranyapura			S Sanjana	97.6		
PM Shri GHS	Ramagondanahalli	Yashodha	90.9				
RV Public School	Mavalli	Anirudh S	97.2	Pravardhinii S	96.4	Bhargav A	95.7
Seshadripuram Public School	Yelahanka	M Chaitra Maiya	98.6	Pranathi S Rao	97.2	Raksha M	96.8
Seshadripuram School Icse	Tumakuru	Chethana M	97.3	Shreeskanda M S	94.5	Charitha S	93.8
Sophia High School	Palace Road	Sahana Navaneetha	99.5	Aditi Praveen	99.0	Aanya Samuel Prabhakar	99.0
St Francis De Sales Public School	Hebbagodi	Anaya Jain	98.8	Chinmay Shenoy	98.6	S Hasini	98.4
St Francis De Sales Public School	Hebbagodi					Libna Lins	98.4
St Joseph'S Boys' High School	Ashok Nagar	Aditya Vinay Kamath	97.4	Sayam Bhansali	97.2	Jian Shah	96.8
St Joseph'S Boys' High School	Ashok Nagar	Diyan Khan	97.4	Vishwas David	97.2		
St Joseph'S Boys' High School	Ashok Nagar			Yuvan Adithya S	97.2		
St. John'S High School	Vijayanagar	Apeksha R	92.0				
St. Michael'S High School	Geddalahalli	Joel Mathew Eappen	98.0	Prajesh Rajendran	97.0	Lakshmi H G	95.0
St.Anne'S High School	Kammanahalli	Pranali J S	91.0				
VLS International School	Basaveshwarnagar	Shuchika R	97.6	Sinchana S Naik	96.8	Navya Arun Kumar	96.2
VLS International School	Basaveshwarnagar	M Shreya	97.6	Kishor R	96.8	Bhavik Jain	96.0
The New Cambridge English School - ICSE	Vijayanagar	Lakshya Jhajharia	98.3	Daiwik S	98.0	Rehanulla Jamadar	97.8
The New Cambridge English School - ICSE	Vijayanagar			Mohan Kumar R S	98.0		
Notre Dame Academy	Choodasandra	Savio Anish	99.4	Tanmayee Pogaku	98.8	Maria Teresa Dominic	98.4

DHiE Schools: SSLC Results 2025-2026

Congratulations to the students of DHiE schools on their meritorious performance in the SSLC examination

Nisarga Vidyanikethana	Hessarghatta	Pavithra M	97.9	Phalguni C	97.1	Preksha HD	96.5
Carmel High School	Basaveshwernagar	Likhith Jain	95.5	Amrutha	90.9	Tanishka G Gola	90.2
S.E.A Primary & Higher Secondary School	Krishnarajapuram	Dakshad .C	97.0	Rithik S	96.0	Siddarth Indi	95.0
S.E.A Primary & Higher Secondary School	Krishnarajapuram					Buvan Raj	95.0
S.E.A Primary & Higher Secondary School	Krishnarajapuram					Amandeep Sharma	95.0

Congress govt busy infighting instead of redressing people's woes: PM

It's unclear how long CM will remain in post: Modi

BENGALURU, DHNS

Accusing the state Congress leadership of infighting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday, sought to convey that it was unclear how long Siddaramaiah would continue as CM, and whether or not his deputy D K Shivakumar would succeed him.

Addressing a gathering near the HAL Airport at an event organised by the state BJP, the prime minister said, "No Congress government has returned for a second time, since Congress only knows how to backstab others. They are false, so are their guarantees. Congress rule doesn't have a chapter on governance. Even in Karnataka, we are seeing the same for the last 3 years. Instead of resolving people's problems, the government is wasting time on its internal fights. We don't know how long the CM will be there nor do we know whether the other one will get to be CM or not".

A host of state BJP leaders, including former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa, Basavaraj Bommai, state party president B Y Vijayendra and others, present Prime Minister Narendra Modi a miniature model of himself during a felicitation ceremony at the HAL airport in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Modi accused the Congress of severing its decades-long ties with the DMK due to "power hunger".

He slammed the grand old party for not choosing the chief minister in Kerala even a week after the results were announced.

"For BJP governments, people's welfare is of paramount importance. We have proven it. As many as 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty. Our motto is that of sabka saath and sabka vikas. Our model is that of good governance. So, in each state, people are giving chance to the BJP for 2-3 times to serve them".

Modi said that the BJP had a "formidable presence in south India".

"Today, there is NDA government in Andhra Pradesh. In terms of Lok Sabha members, BJP is number one in Karnataka. In Telangana, the BJP is number two. In Puducherry, NDA has formed a government for the second time," he said.

Recalling that the BJP had just 3 seats in Bengal in 2016, but got a majority 10 years later, the prime minister hoped the 3 seats that the party won in the recent Kerala Assembly elections was a sign of better prospects in future.

Centre of Excellence to develop AI-based health screening

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has launched the Centre of Excellence (COE) for Artificial Intelligence in Biotechnology, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology and the Ministry of Electronics and IT, to bring advanced technology to the healthcare and agriculture sectors.

"The idea is to build a dedicated centre of excellence for developing and leveraging Artificial Intelligence capabilities in the field of biotechnology, which has implications in life across healthcare, agriculture and environment," said Dr Tailmarif Saiyed, CEO and Director of C-CAMP.

In healthcare, the Centre aims to develop Artificial Intelligence in early-stage screenings based on data. "Very small devices based on AI patterns will be developed to predict health issues which would otherwise come to limelight only after testing or consulting doctors. We will be using AI for drug discoveries and therapeutic developments," he added.

AI will also be leveraged in all sections of healthcare, including diagnosis, treatment, screening, medical devices and so on.

C-CAMP will identify societal problems that can be solved through the COE and help develop AI tools to address the problem, according to the director.

The state government has approved Rs 20 crore for the project to focus on bringing advanced technology to the healthcare and agriculture sectors. The Centre will be built over four years along with the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB).

Gelatin sticks trigger security scare on PM convoy's route

BENGALURU, DHNS: A suspicious packet containing two gelatin sticks was found on the outskirts of Bengaluru, where PM Narendra Modi's convoy was scheduled to pass on Sunday, triggering a temporary security scare.

According to officials, the package was found nearly a km away from the NICE Road junction near Thathaguni, Kaggalipura, on Sunday morning, nearly one-and-a-half hours ahead of the prime minister's visit.

"A constable who was part of the area domination exercise and was doing anti-sabotage checks found the package approximately 25 feet away from the road near a compound wall. Area domination teams arrived at the spot and found two gelatin sticks. They were immediately recovered, and the area was secured. No suspects have been detained so far," said R Srinivas Gowda, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru South district.

An investigation has been launched, and special teams have been formed to trace the suspects. "The spot is a bit away from the route of the PM's convoy," the SP added. Investigators have yet to determine if the gelatin sticks were deliberately placed or disposed of. "Quarrying takes place in nearby areas, and someone involved in it may have disposed of the gelatin sticks. A probe will reveal everything," a police source said.

The city police arrested a person identified as Lohith, 40, for making a hoax call to the police control room at around 7.30 am. He was apprehended from a house near Koramangala.

The suspect had claimed that there would be explosions near HAL and Art of Living premises.

"No connection has been established between the suspect arrested in Koramangala and the gelatin sticks. He is learnt to have made such hoax calls during previous VVIP and VIP visits also. He appears to be mentally unstable," a police officer said.

'Save soil from chemical fertilisers'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated a lotus-shaped meditation centre (Dhyan Mandir) at the Art of Living (AOL) international centre, marking the 70th birthday of spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the 45th anniversary of the foundation.

Addressing a gathering of volunteers and followers at Vishalakshi Mantap, he urged the AOL family to spearhead a national movement towards natural farming and water conservation.

The PM said, "You might think Gurudev was praising me, but I felt he was assigning me work," Modi said. "I am one of you, here because of you, and here for you. Since I am family, I will say it upfront, when Gurudev celebrates his centenary, I will be here again".

Acknowledging Bengaluru's dual identity, the PM said while the city is globally recognised for software and services, it has simultaneously scaled new heights in spiritual consciousness. "Yoga, meditation and pranayama are inseparable parts of India's values. Today, the world is drawn to these traditions," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar offer puja ahead of an event on the Art of Living campus in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

He likened the Art of Living to a "vast Banyan tree" that started as a small seed 45 years ago, noting that its branches now touch lives globally.

"Wherever I go on official work abroad, I always find someone from AOL," he said.

The prime minister emphasised that "service is the highest virtue" (Seva Paramo Dharma) and lauded the organisation's shift towards social impact. However, he placed a specific challenge before the youth and volunteers: saving the soil.

"Just as humans seek natural healing, our Mother Earth needs natural healing from chemical fertilizers that have devastated our fields. Saving the earth from chemicals is also an 'Art of Living'," Modi asserted.

He urged the organisation to amplify the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A tree in the name of mother) campaign and promote 'Per Drop More Crop' initiatives. With the monsoon approaching, he called for a massive push in rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.

Modi highlighted India's rise as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and a leader in digital payments, attributing this success to the country's youth. He noted that in an era of rapid technological change, mental well-being is paramount.

"Technology connects us to the world in a second, but it is vital that we connect with ourselves".

"A 'Developed India' (Viksit Bharat) requires youth who are mentally calm, socially responsible and sensitive to society," he said, positioning AOL's meditation and yoga programmes as essential tools for nation-building.

The event concluded with the PM iterating that 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) is essentially a manifestation of AOL philosophy, urging collective power of society to transcend government efforts in national development.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at a few places over Coastal & South Interior and at one or two places over North Interior Karnataka..
Forecast May 11: Partly Cloudy sky. Maximum and Minimum temperature very likely to be around 33°C and 22°C respectively.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.6	22.8	0.0
Bidar	38.2	24.0	0.0
Vijayapura	37.5	23.5	0.0
Dharwad	37.8	22.8	0.0
Haveri	37.2	24.6	0.0
Kalaburagi	39.4	27.1	0.0
Raichur	38.0	26.4	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.6	25.1	tr
Karwar	36.8	25.9	tr
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.4	25.2	tr

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	--	23.2	0.0
Bengaluru	32.2	21.8	2.6
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	36.0	23.9	0.0
Davangere	37.5	22.5	0.0
Hassan	--	--	--
Mysuru	34.6	22.2	1.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	33.2	20.4	11.2
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	38.0	28.0	NIL
Kolkata	33.0	26.0	NIL
Mumbai	34.0	30.0	NA
Chennai	33.0	28.0	NA
Pune	42.0	25.0	NA
Hyderabad	37.0	26.0	NA
Th'puram	32.0	28.0	NIL

KFD deaths persist as better vaccine stays in trial stage

Monkey fever has claimed 29 lives in K'taka since 2021

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

The delay in developing a new, improved vaccine for Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), popularly known as Monkey Fever, has continued to claim lives in the malnad region.

Karnataka has recorded 29 KFD deaths from 2021 to April 2026.

Uttara Kannada tops the state with 14 deaths, followed by Shivamogga with 8 and Chikkamagaluru with 7. Shivamogga recorded four deaths and Uttara Kannada one so far this year.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing an improved, indigenous two-dose vaccine for KFD, which has entered phase one human trials. The new vaccine aims to replace the older, less effective vaccine discontinued in 2022, which was used to prevent tick-borne infections in Karnataka.

District Health Officer Nataraj told *DH* that the human trials are underway and the new vaccine may not be available immediately but is expected to be effective. Meanwhile, people of the malnad region must avoid straying into forest areas till July as KFD cases rise during summer when infected ticks become active in high temperatures. People visit forests to collect dry leaves for organic manure, but the risk of being bitten by infected ticks is high during this period.

'DMP oil'

"If entering the forest is unavoidable, apply DMP oil on exposed parts of the body before stepping in. There is no shortage of DMP oil in the state," he said.

Out of 13,337 blood samples tested across the state in the last four months, 183 tested positive. The number of tick positive cases was four so far, higher than in all years except 2024.

Though health department officials are testing samples from Belagavi, Hassan, Kodagu, Haveri, Gadag, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Mysuru, most positive cases are reported in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Uttara Kannada.

Since symptoms of KFD resemble those of common illnesses such as fever, headache, muscle pain and vomiting, the department tests blood samples of suspected cases from other districts as a precaution.

The KFD virus may be present in reservoir animals including rodents, shrews, cattle, porcupines, deer, squirrels, monkeys, leopards and bison in the Western Ghats region. These animals get infected when bitten by infected ticks. Only monkeys die after being bitten. KFD cases were reported in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar in 2013, and samples from this region continue to be tested.

The infected ticks may be present in any forest area of the country, but cases are not reported unless humans come in contact with them.

CHILL TIME

Children play in water at a summer camp organised by Rangayana in Mysuru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

CM chair 'stable', says Shivakumar amid Modi's criticism

RAICHUR, PTI: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday categorically refuted PM Narendra Modi's remark suggesting that the CM's chair in the state was "wobbling."

Speaking to reporters at Mudgal in Lingasugur taluk of Raichur district, Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, said, "No chairs are wobbling in Karnataka. All chairs are stable. I don't know what the PM is referring to."

He was responding to the PM's statement alleging a power struggle within the state government.

At the heart of the "power tussle" within the Karnataka Congress is a reported 2023 understanding between Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar.

According to reports, when the Congress high command selected Siddaramaiah as chief minister, there was an informal understanding that Shivakumar would take over after the government reached its halfway mark.

However, the party leadership has not publicly confirmed any such arrangement.

Addressing BJP workers in Bengaluru, Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress, accusing it of "failing to provide good governance due to internal power struggles in Karnataka and of betraying the people."

He charged that Congress has become a "parasite party."

"For the past three years in Karnataka, instead of resolving people's problems, most of the government's time has been spent on addressing internal conflicts," the PM said, adding that the Congress government has remained gripped by uncertainty over leadership and power-sharing arrangements.

Govt to interlink family trees for genealogy database

Family trees, Page ?

More than one crore households on Kutumba have been given unique IDs. Kutumba is a comprehensive database that the government wants to use for automatic disbursal of benefits to eligible citizens without them having to even apply.

In 2021, for the purpose of registration on Kutumba, the government issued an order allowing citizens to define 'family' on their own terms without conforming to traditional, official meanings.

Seed saviours plant hopes for resilient farming

Seeds, from Page 1

Minister for Agriculture N Chaluvaraya Swamy said he was deeply inspired by Khan's extraordinary effort to preserve thousands of traditional paddy landraces.

"His dedication to protecting our agricultural heritage for future generations immediately convinced me that such initiatives deserved institutional support and recognition. I conveyed this to the commissioner and stressed the need to encourage and reward farmers who are carrying out this invaluable work selflessly, without expecting anything in return," he told *DH*.

The department has partnered with the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, to scientifically validate these landraces. Researchers are conducting nutritional profiling and assessing agronomic performance to ensure these traditional seeds can compete in modern markets, and aim to integrate these crops into public food systems and develop high-value markets for organic and medicinal produce.

To ensure accountability, the department has deployed a digital platform featuring geo-tagging and mobile apps to track seed purity and disbursement. The impact is already visible on the ground, in the Aghanashini River delta, where farmer Nagaraj Mohan Naik's efforts to preserve 'Kagga' rice variety that thrives in saline, flooded waters have led to a proposal for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Despite the success, the report identifies certain hurdles.

Current regulatory frameworks and seed laws prioritise uniformity, which often clashes with the genetic diversity of landraces. Also, there is a need to bridge the intergenerational gap to ensure the youth take up the mantle of seed conservation.

Congress losses one of its key leaders in Chitradurga

Sudhakar, from Page 1

Later, when Goolihatti was sacked as a minister, Sudhakar, Narendraswamy and other independents resigned as ministers and were later disqualified as MLAs. Later, they were reinstated as MLAs after the Supreme Court verdict went in their favour.

Returning to the Congress later, Sudhakar won twice from Hiriyur, in 2013 and 2023. In 2016, he was appointed as the chairman of the Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (KEONICS).

He became a minister again in the Siddaramaiah-led government in 2023. Along senior Congressman H Anjaneya (also a former social welfare minister), Sudhakar was one of the important contemporary Congress leaders from Chitradurga.

The four-time MLA is credited for his political hold and formidable electoral performances in a region where the Jain community has miniscule numbers.

Speaking about Sudhakar, Veteran Congressman V S Ugrappa (native of Tumakuru's Pavagada taluk bordering Challakere) told *DH* that though Sudhakar hailed from a numerically small community, he won over dominant communities in his constituency.

"He was a very simple man... Though he was a businessman, he never showed off. He worked as a people's representative and hence won over the confidence of the people."

Speaking to *DH*, Narendraswamy (Malavalli MLA) recalled Sudhakar as a friendly, humorous, proactive politician who was also an astute businessman.

"He was successful in various fields like politics, business, cooperative society and so on. This shows how active he was. I don't know how he got time to be humorous. He was nice with everyone and didn't have any enemies."

Narendraswamy explained that Sudhakar had a political hold over both Challakere and Hiriyur. "He gave equal respect to all religions. He never made senseless talk and never took vague decisions."

I will be the only power centre in Tamil Nadu: CM Vijay

Vijay, from Page 1

"I will not deceive you with hollow promises," Vijay thundered before his fans, and thanked his "young friends at home" (kids) who played a critical role in convincing elders to vote for him.

While most of his speech outlined plans to implement promises, ensure transparency and women's safety, and maintain law and order, Vijay blamed the previous DMK government for leaving the coffers empty.

He sought time from the people to implement his pre-poll promises and vowed to release a white paper on the state's finances.

His remarks drew a sharp rebuke from predecessor M K Stalin, who told the new CM that the exchequer had enough for welfare schemes and urged him to learn the art of managing finances.

Several takeaways emerged from Vijay's speech: He promised not to make mistakes himself, not to let others make mistakes, and sent a strong message to supporters that anyone entertaining thoughts of "making mistakes" should erase them immediately.

At the Secretariat, the Chief Minister held a review meeting on the law and order situation and appointed seasoned officers P Senthil Kumar and G Laxmi Priya as secretaries.

R Kannan, biographer of Dravidian legends C N Annadurai and MGR, told *DH* that Vijay has disproved the theory that the era of charismatic politics is behind.

"Tamils always wanted a champion, and Vijay is their new champion. He should be more gracious, and I think he is still young and will learn on the go," he added.

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Genetic disorders on uptick; newborn screening, biopsy offer hope

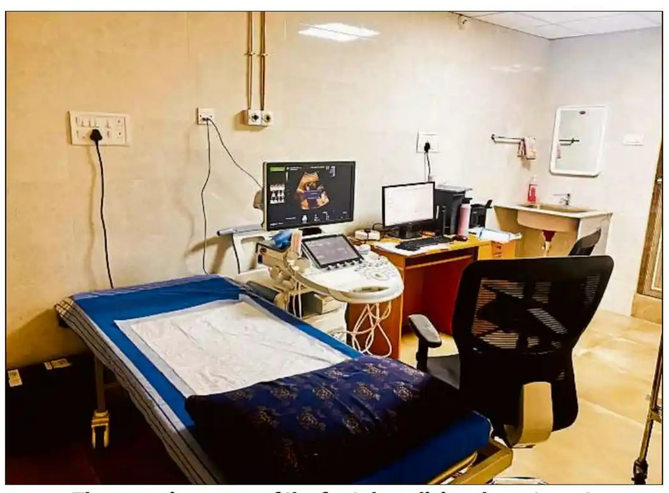
AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The burden of genetic disorders in India is increasing, according to research published in the Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases, a medical journal.

The study shows that haematologic disorders, including thalassemia, top the list followed by inborn metabolism disorders and neurological disorders in newborns.

The study compiled prenatal samples from 2008 to 2022. These samples were from individuals identified as being at high risk for rare genetic disorders based on family history, previous affected children and abnormal ultrasound findings. With growing awareness of genetic disorders, universal newborn screening has increased in Bengaluru even in the absence of a government facility to conduct the screening.

Dr Parimala V Thirumalesh, lead senior consultant - neonatology and paediatrics, said, "Some of the most-detected genetic and inherited disorders include thalassemia, congenital hypothyroidism, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Metabolic disorders such as phenylketonuria and congenital adrenal hyperplasia are also identified through newborn screening."



The scanning room of the foetal medicine department at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health. DH FILE PHOTO

Newborn screening helps in early diagnosis and early interventions, reduces complications and improves child's long-term quality of life.

Stressing the importance of early detection, Dr Bhavana Girish, IVF specialist, said, "Early detection in genetic and metabolic disorders is extremely important as symptoms are absent at birth, and by the time they become symptomatic, irreversible damage to the brain, liver and heart may have already happened. If detected before symptoms appear, we can manage these conditions with timely intervention".

Genetic testing for embryos

Couples choosing In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) also rely on Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT), which provides genetic insights of the embryos that will be transferred to the woman's uterus.

Doctors conduct two kinds of tests on the embryos: PGT-A, which tests for Down's syndrome and other similar disorders and PGT-M tests for inherited disorders like thalassemia.

Dr Rubina Pandit, fertility specialist, said, "The testing is typically performed around the fifth day after fertilisation during IVF. The embryo at this stage contains approximately 100 to 200 cells. Scientists remove a small number of cells from the trophectoderm, which will develop into the placenta while they keep the inner cell mass intact because it will develop into the foetus."

She said improved biopsy techniques have reduced harm to embryos and IVF centres now commonly freeze embryos after biopsy until the genetic results are available, after which suitable embryos are transferred.

Prohibitive cost

However, the high cost of newborn tests has remained a barrier.

The state government announced a government facility for universal newborn screening in the 2026-2027 budget. The facility in Bengaluru is to be set up at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health and Vanivilas Hospital.

"The pilot studies and training are ongoing. We expect to begin the facilities in the next four months," Dr Basavaraj Dabadi, deputy director of child health, told DH.

Rahul, CM, Vijayendra mourn D Sudhakar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tributes and condolences poured in for Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar, who died following multiple organ failure in the small hours of Sunday.

Sudhakar (66) had recently undergone a knee surgery, but went into a coma after developing a lung infection. He was shifted from Manipal Hospital to KIMS Hospital in Electronic City, and was declared dead at 3.15am on Sunday.

A four-time MLA who successfully contested from his hometown Challakere once (2004), and went on to win from Hiriyur thrice – 2008, '13 and '23 – Sudhakar, who hailed from the Jain community, was the only legislator from Chitradurga serving in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi wrote on 'X': "Deeply saddened by the passing of senior Congress leader and Karnataka minister D Sudhakarji. A torchbearer of Congress ideology, his life was spent in the service of the poor of Chitradurga and Karnataka."

In his post on 'X', Siddaramaiah, who had called on Sudhakar in the hospital and had spoken to the doctors treating him, said that he had been optimistic about the latter's recovery.

"Sudhakar had deep concern and commitment to public service. He should've lived longer. Despite constant efforts by doctors and all our wishes, he has passed away. This is deeply saddening," Siddaramaiah wrote on 'X'.

Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra also expressed his condolences to the bereaved kin of the departed minister.

Meanwhile, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said that the state government was mulling naming an irrigation project after D Sudhakar.

"Sudhakar fought for the implementation of the Upper Bhadra project. We will consider naming the project in his memory," he said.

Shivakumar said that the former's last rites would be conducted on Monday after 3pm in accordance with the customs of the Jain community. He would laid to rest with full state honours.

Newly elected MLAs' oath taking postponed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The swearing-in ceremony of recently elected MLAs Umesh Meti and Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun scheduled on Monday has been postponed due to the demise of Minister D Sudhakar.

The swearing-in was initially scheduled to be held at 10 am on Sunday. However, it has now been postponed indefinitely.

3 suspected rhino poachers held in Assam

TEZPUR (ASSAM), PTI: Three suspected poachers were apprehended from Assam's Lakhimpur district on Sunday, officials said.

The accused were allegedly planning to poach rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park (KNP), they said.

KNP Director Sonali Ghosh said the arrests were made from Narayanpur, in a joint operation by forest officials of the Eastern Range, Gamiri, and the Crime Investigation Range of the Biswanath Wildlife Division of the park, based on intelligence inputs.

"The operation was conducted in connection with a wildlife offence case registered in March. The accused were planning rhino poaching in the sixth addition area of the national park," she added. During the operation, forest teams also recovered parts of a country-made firearm, including a rifle bolt and butt without a magazine, from Ukhal Chuk in Majuli district, she added.

The three accused are residents of Majuli, Lakhimpur and Biswanath districts.

How did DMK-Congress ties break down over a few months?

Differences over seat-sharing to power-sharing

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The souring of relations between the M K Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress — two key constituents of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc — started in November last year when the Congress formed a committee to initiate seat-sharing talks, but the DMK refused to participate.

Several calls went unanswered, and some consultations were also unattended, said Congress sources, leading to the latter allying with Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), which defeated the DMK in the just-concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

"After the Bihar elections, we wanted to initiate seat-sharing talks soon. But there was no response from the DMK. They stalled us, did not attend a single meeting we asked them to come to, and eventually responded in February this year," a senior leader who urged the Congress leadership to ally with TVK told *DH*.

DMK leaders have been calling this a "betrayal" and the Congress "backstabbers".

On the contrary, Congress leaders *DH* spoke to said that the DMK had stopped the transfer of power to the Congress in all the years that they were in alliance.

On May 4, as the results came in, Rahul Gandhi called M K Stalin in the evening, said sources. The exchange was brief and polite. Rahul then spoke to Vijay, who asked for support.

DMK chief and the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, in Coimbatore in April 2024. PTI PHOTO

The Congress' internal survey showed that Vijay was going to do overwhelmingly well. "In informal talks with us before the polls, the TVK was willing to offer us 75 Assembly seats, six-seven ministries, as well as 50% seats in the Lok Sabha," said the aforementioned Congress leader.

Rahul had, after this survey, shown support to Vijay after the CBI inquiry following the death of 41 fans in a stampede in the TVK's Karur rally, as well as the stalling of the release of his film "Jana Nayagan". The DMK was not happy with the development.

In contrast, the DMK was unwilling to give the Congress a single ministry, said Congress leaders.

"Whenever we are in the Opposition, the DMK is good to us. When we are in power, it does not share any single position. Even anganwadis do not have a Congress worker," another senior Congress leader, from Tamil Nadu, who has vocally supported the TVK.

"The local cadre-to-cadre trust and relationship had broken down."

The DMK has historically not shared power with the Congress, but has helped it in the Lok Sabha elections.

"In 2006, the DMK had 96 MLAs and needed 22 more to form a government. The Congress had 34 MLAs, and we gave support. In return, they ran the state for five years without giving us a ministry, while they had Cabinet ministers in the Central government," said the previous senior Congress leader.

Internally, the Congress had differing opinions on the TVK-vs-DMK issue, with senior hands like party president Mallikarjun Kharge and P Chidambaram siding with the DMK, while party MP Manickam Tagore and leader Praveen Chakravarthy took the TVK's side.

Rahul was leaning towards Vijay as well, but Kharge prevailed. "The local leaders and cadre were in favour of a Congress-TVK alliance, but the MPs and MLAs wanted to stay with the DMK," the leader said.

India explores high-tech cooling method to save water amid data-centre boom

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Central government has said it is adopting advanced cooling technologies to curb water consumption amid widespread concerns among environmentalists about India's rapidly expanding AI-driven data-centre sector impacting water footprint.

According to estimates cited by the NatConnect Foundation, data centres in India could consume up to 37.5 billion litres of water annually — equivalent to the yearly needs of 7-8 lakh people, or enough to meet the requirement of a city like Mumbai for about a week.

The calculation is based on the urban water norm of 135 litres per capita per day prescribed by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation.

Taking up the issue with the Prime Minister, NatConnect Foundation director B N Kumar warned that unchecked expansion of the data-centre industry could pose a serious threat to the country's water security.

He urged the government to integrate water stewardship into India's fast-growing AI infrastructure.

Official data show that India's data-centre capacity has surged from around 375 MW in 2020 to over 1,500 MW in 2025, driven by the rise of artificial intelligence and cloud computing.

Activists, citing global benchmarks from institutions such as the International Energy Agency and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, estimate that a conventionally cooled 1 MW facility can consume nearly 25 million litres of water annually.

'India's structural constraints'

Highlighting India's structural constraints, NatConnect noted that the country supports nearly 18% of the global population with just about 4% of its freshwater resources.

With groundwater levels declining in several regions and agriculture heavily dependent on aquifers, the rising demand from data centres could exacerbate water stress, it cautioned.

Reply from ministry

Responding to the concerns, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said it has taken note of the suggestions and sought further inputs.

In a communication, the Ministry said data centres are increasingly deploying advanced solutions such as direct-to-chip liquid cooling, adiabatic cooling, immersion systems and high-density racks.

These technologies help reduce both water and energy consumption while supporting high-performance computing.

It also said India has the opportunity to lead in building climate-resilient and resource-efficient digital infrastructure, and stressed that the growth of AI and cloud infrastructure must align with sustainable water management, particularly in water-stressed regions.

The Ministry has called for incentives for near-zero potable water operations, mandatory disclosure of water usage by data centres, prioritisation of treated wastewater for cooling, support for research into low-water technologies and basin-level hydrological assessments for large data-centre clusters.

Besides, it underscored ongoing measures such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse and digital groundwater monitoring to ensure sustainable resource management alongside the growth of digital infrastructure.

SUMMER BREAK

Boats anchored on the banks of the Ganga river in view of summer, in Prayagraj on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

Greens object to clearances for hyper-scale data centres in Vizag

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Environmentalists are raising serious objections about the environmental clearances (ECs) recently granted by Andhra Pradesh's State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for two hyperscale data-centre parks — the Vizag Mega Data Centre Park Limited in Tarluvada and the Vizag Rambilli Data Centre Park Limited in Rambilli.

They are calling the clearances flawed and demanding that both projects be reclassified and subjected to fresh appraisals through full environmental impact assessments (EIAs), with statutory public hearings held in all affected villages.

Foundation stones

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to lay the foundation stones for the data centres on Tuesday.

According to Human Rights Forum (HRF) state general secretary Y Rajesh together,

the two projects entail a combined grid demand of 1,626 MW, a backup diesel fleet of approximately 354 generators with a total installed capacity of 971.5 MW, and on-site high-speed diesel storage of 2,520 kilolitres by any reasonable standard.

HRF state secretary G Rohit pointed out that by placing these projects under a regulatory category that exempts them from public hearings intended for ordinary building and construction activities, the state government effectively ensured that local communities were neither informed nor consulted.

The activists argued that this classification was not a mere technicality but the very mechanism through which meaningful scrutiny had been evaded.

These data centres, they stressed, were massive, energy and water-intensive industrial installations with significant land and resource footprints, and must not be treated as benign infrastructure.

'Two AI Data centres'

"What was initially presented as a single Google-led hyperscale AI data centre with a capacity of 1 GW (1,000 MW) has now taken the form of two separate hyperscale AI data centres, each with a capacity of 1 GW..., both owned by the Adani Group," said Rajesh.

"It is our considered view that these clearances fall far short of acceptable environmental and regulatory standards. The two filings are not independent assessments but identical, template-based submissions reproduced across projects and approved without meaningful scrutiny. This has reduced the clearance process to a hollow, procedural exercise devoid of substance," he added.

In summer lifeline for animals, Kerala revives forest water sources

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

At a time when Palakkad district in Kerala is reeling under a severe summer and acute water scarcity, wild animals in the region have found relief thanks to the forest department's mission to ensure adequate water inside forests.

In the Dhoni forests of Palakkad, ponds and streams continue to provide sufficient water for wildlife. Similar conditions prevail across many forest areas in the state.

As part of the Mission Food, Fodder and Water project, the

A rejuvenated pond in Palakkad's Dhoni forest.

department rejuvenated forest water bodies to prevent animals from straying into human settlements in search of water. Around 1,700 water sources in forests have been revived.

In the Dhoni forest area near Palakkad town, one pond has already been rejuvenated, and nine brush dams have been constructed along a stream. As a result, even in the peak of summer, water availability in the forests has been ensured. Two more ponds are set to be dug soon, said Dhoni section forest officer Sasibhooshan R.

"We have rejuvenated a very old pond in the forest and made it easily accessible to animals by clearing the slopes on its banks. Now we can spot the footprints of various species along the edges," Sasibhooshan told *DH*.

He said that by ensuring drinking water and improving vegetation in the forests, along with installing solar and hanging-solar fences across nearly 19 kilometres, incidents of human–animal conflict — especially crop destruction — have been reduced considerably.

The forest department is also conducting constant patrols to prevent wild animals from entering human areas.

Ramadas TK, president of the local Mundoor panchayat, said that while the department's initiatives have helped contain the entry of larger animals like elephants and tigers into human settlements, monkeys and peacocks continue to pose serious threats to crops.

BJP puts up great show in SC-ST belts of Bengal, Assam

No noteworthy wins in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP's efforts to woo the SC and ST communities have paid dividends, with the party and its allies winning big in the reserved seats in both Assam and West Bengal.

In Bengal, the party won 67 of the 84 reserved seats, and in Assam, the NDA swept all the 19 ST seats and 8 of the 9 SC seats. While it did not register any noteworthy wins in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, NDA held several key reserved seats in these two states.

In Assam, there are nine SC reserved seats, out of which BJP won five, and the alliance parties won three, with only one going to the Congress.

Of the 19 ST reserved seats in the state, BJP won 13, and alliance partners Bodo People's Front and Asom Gona Parishad won the other six seats.

"Delimitation played a structural role, increasing the weight of indigenous and tribal-reserved constituencies from 16 to 19 and SC reserved constituencies from 8 to 9. Strong tribal mobilisation of the allies like BPF, combined with BJP's expansion in Upper Assam and hill regions, ensured near-total control over ST seats. The results show a clear consolidation of SC and ST voters towards the BJP-led NDA, turning reserved constituencies into a decisive electoral pillar," a senior party leader, who is the head of a key wing, said.

About the Bengal outcome, the leader said, "The results signal a clear consolidation of Dalit support and reflect a uniform mandate across tribal regions like North Bengal and Junglemahal. Significantly, this indicates that BJP not only expanded its electoral base but also achieved deep penetration among historically marginalised social groups. The results also show the wiping out of other parties, an overwhelming dominance in segments once seen as fragmented and contested."

The leader also pointed out that a unified shift of the Matua community, significantly boosting BJP's performance across SC-dominated seats, especially in border regions.

In Tamil Nadu, NDA ally ADMK won 9 out of the state's 46 SC reserved seats and one of the two ST reserved seats. In Puducherry, NDA's ally AINRC won two out of the five SC reserved constituencies in Puducherry.

Endangered Asiatic wild water buffaloes travel to Kanha from Kaziranga

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Endangered Asiatic wild water buffaloes have been reintroduced in the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, the animals' "ancestral" habitat, after a 2,000-km-long translocation journey from Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP).

The first batch of four water buffaloes, one male and three female, was transported from Kaziranga on April 25 and was released in Kanha on Tuesday (April 28), officials at Kaziranga said.

"The aim of the joint initiative of the Assam and Madhya Pradesh forest departments is to reintroduce the megaherbivores to their ancestral home in central India, where they have been locally extinct for over a century, and to leverage their natural grazing behaviours to manage tall grass species and enhance biodiversity in the Kanha grasslands," said KNP director Sonali Ghosh in a statement on Tuesday.

The global population of the Asiatic wild water buffalo, which is listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, stands at fewer than 4,000 individuals, with roughly 99% residing in Assam alone.

With a target to secure the species' future, the multi-phase project aims at translocating 50 wild buffaloes from Kaziranga to Kanha in the next one year.

"A feasibility study conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India identified Kanha National Park's grasslands and meadows as ideal — mirroring Kaziranga's habitat. As megaherbivores and grassland engineers, these buffaloes boost biodiversity and restore wilderness. Last sighted in Kanha in 1979, they were deemed locally extinct, until now," Ghosh said.

Translocation journey

Between March 19 and April 10, seven sub-adult buffaloes were captured across the Central and Eastern ranges of Kaziranga. To ensure their well-being and quarantine protocol, the captured animals were held in two specialised enclosures, constructed of natural materials like *Bombax ceiba* (Simul) and reinforced with solar fencing.

This intervening period allowed the buffaloes to get accustomed to caretakers, health monitoring and transport vehicles, significantly minimising potential stress during the transfer.

On April 25, the first batch of four buffaloes were loaded into special vehicles and flagged off by forest officials from both Kaziranga and Kanha. A second batch of four buffaloes is scheduled for transport by April 30.

"The conservation translocation of wild buffaloes from Kaziranga to Kanha is one of the longest journeys of over 2,000 km by road. Prior to this, four individuals from the Manas National Park in Assam were translocated to the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh, in April 2020. The present translocation from Kaziranga is the most ambitious with a target of 50 individuals to be moved for a viable population," the statement read.

Madhya Pradesh has expressed its willingness to provide gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) for a potential reintroduction in its past historical range in Assam.

Soon, tickets to Nandi Hills to be available online

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS: Visitors to Nandi Hills will soon be able to buy entry and parking tickets to the popular weekend getaway online.

Taking cognisance of the chaotic scenes at the ticket counters atop the hills on weekends and during the holidays, the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has decided to unveil the online booking facility that will save visitors the hassle of waiting in a long queue for tickets.

Visitors must mandatorily purchase entry tickets if they are to proceed beyond the main entrance to Nandi Hills. This often entails having to endure a long wait at the queues in front of the ticket counters with fellow tourists. Visitors often jostle with each other to get ahead, and there have even been instances wherein they have engaged in shoving and pushing. Furthermore, those manning the ticket counters often struggle to cope with the weekend rush, and their troubles only increase when customers insist on paying in cash, compelling them to rummage in the cash repository for change.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

West Bengal's future lies in inclusive growth

The swearing-in of Suvendu Adhikari as West Bengal's Chief Minister marks a definitive shift in the state's politics, with implications not only for the state but also for India. West Bengal is a major state that has resisted the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s ideology, politics, and governance model for many years, but has now overwhelmingly shifted its allegiance to the party. The party's progress from three seats in the 2016 Assembly polls to over 200 now has been consistent and marked by hard work at the ideological, organisational, and leadership levels. Politics and governments in West Bengal have endured for long periods and then undergone sudden shifts. It has happened this time too, though the signs of change have been seen for years. Though the Election Commission of India's controversial SIR process, which denied voting rights to lakhs of people, and its security and administrative measures during the campaign may have had an impact on the polls, the electorate's desire for a change cannot be disputed.

Mamata Banerjee had thrived on regional identity politics, projecting herself as the defender of the state against an overbearing Centre and a majoritarian ideology. The BJP has offered a new identity framework based on national integrity, border security, citizenship, and demographic anxieties. It used issues such as illegal migration and minority appeasement, and succeeded in effecting religious polarisation to create a popular narrative in its favour. There was an anti-incumbency sentiment against the Trinamool Congress government centring on unemployment, corruption, misgovernance, and law-and-order issues. The political capital Mamata had gained from welfare politics and her standing among women suffered erosion, and the minority votes she had relied on were not enough to sustain her. The BJP secured a mandate for change in this setting.

> **No government can perform or promote people's welfare in a divisive social and political environment**

The new government has promised a rejuvenation of the state's politics, economy, and society, but it faces serious challenges. There are immediate governance challenges, as shown by the killing of Suvendu's aide. West Bengal has seen ruling parties using violence for domination and oppression, only to later get trapped in the culture of violence. It works against all parties in the course of time. Employment generation, industrialisation, infrastructure development, and economic improvement are major tasks before the government. It will get support from the Union government, but may have to start showing results in quick time. The society's inclusive nature needs to be preserved, especially because Muslims constitute about 30% of the population. Suvendu is known for his militant Hindutva polemic and polarising rhetoric, like his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma. No government can perform or promote people's welfare in a divisive social and political environment, and in a state of perpetual mobilisation.

Twin crises threaten India's farm economy

While an intense heat wave is spreading across India, agriculture will be one of the sectors most severely impacted. A report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned that heat events have posed a threat to the livelihoods and health of over a billion people worldwide. The impact will be severe in India, with predictions of a likely fall in yields of rice and wheat crops. The country has seen an early incidence of high temperatures in all climatic zones. Agriculture is highly climate-sensitive, and variations in heat levels can badly affect crops. The untimely heat waves are likely to curtail yields in important farming states such as Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The wheat harvest is already over, and reports from farms are not encouraging.

Rice is equally vulnerable. Rice cultivation is about to start, and the dry weather will affect seed germination, nursery preparation, and the growth of plants. Farmers will have to rely more on groundwater or irrigation where available, as higher evaporation will increase water loss. Irrigation facilities are inadequate in many areas of the country. It is not just the existing dry weather or the heat wave conditions in the coming weeks that will challenge agriculture. The entire monsoon season from June to September is likely to see a deficit in rainfall, and that can hurt the whole farming economy.

> **Protect India's agriculture and economy from the impacts of climate change and other pressures**

The heat wave is not the only challenge. There is a serious shortfall in the supply of fertilisers. The war in West Asia has dealt a serious blow to the supply of fertilisers and important raw materials such as natural gas and ammonia that are used for fertiliser production. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted a major share of the world's fertiliser trade. Major producers such as Russia and China have cut down on exports to support domestic demand. China is a major supplier of fertilisers to India. India's agriculture is likely to face pressure from two sides: heat and fertiliser shortages. Governments at both central and state levels should start taking measures to counter them. These include a focus on heat-resistant crops, counselling farmers, and supporting them in dealing with the impact. India has not made any progress in putting in place a system of climate-resistant agriculture on a permanent basis. Climate change and its challenges are going to be with us. There is a need to protect the country's agriculture and economy from the impacts of climate change and other pressures more urgently than ever before.

POWER ARITHMETIC

Anatomy of a landslide

The consolidation of Hindu votes behind the BJP appears significantly sharper than in previous elections

SUBHAMOY MAITRA

The Bharatiya Janata Party secured little more than 29 million votes (45.85%) in West Bengal, while the Trinamool Congress received slightly less than 26 million (40.80%). The difference between the two principal rivals is just over 3.2 million votes, or roughly five percentage points. Yet that relatively modest lead translated into a seat advantage of 127 (BJP 207, TMC 80).

West Bengal's election demonstrated once again that electoral politics is rarely governed by linear arithmetic. A reasonable swing in vote share, when combined with social consolidation and Opposition fragmentation, can produce disproportionately large shifts in political power against the backdrop of the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls.

The BJP has not merely emerged as the single largest party; it has secured a victory of historic proportions, breaching the two-thirds majority mark that has repeatedly defined regime changes in the state since 1972. The TMC, despite being in power for 15 years and having a formidable organisational structure, has lost the state for the first time since 2011.

Many observers now claim that the outcome was obvious all along. Such retrospective certainty is one of the recurring rituals of electoral politics. Once results are declared, ambiguity suddenly disappears from public memory. Yet caution before the election was not irrational.

Several exit polls projected a narrow BJP majority, while others suggested that the Trinamool Congress might still retain power. The unusually large-scale revision of electoral rolls also introduced uncertainty into any straightforward comparison with previous elections.

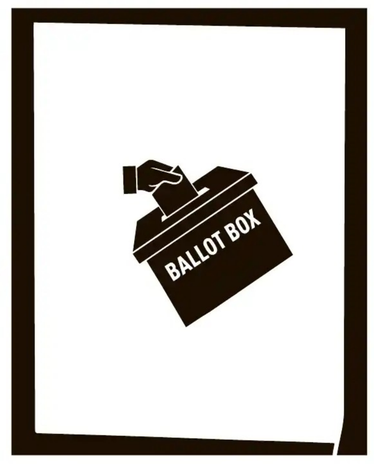
In the 2024 parliamentary election, West Bengal had roughly 76 million voters on the rolls, with around 60.5 million votes cast. This time, after deletions and revisions, the electorate shrank to nearly 68.25 million. Yet total votes cast increased to around 63.5 million, with turnout crossing 92%. In other words, the denominator decreased sharply while the numerator increased significantly. Nearly 3 million additional votes were cast despite a much smaller electorate.

The BJP successfully converted heightened participation into a regime-changing wave. The consolidation of Hindu votes behind the BJP appears significantly sharper than in previous elections. The issue must also be approached through some elementary arithmetic, because competitive religiosity emerged as one of the election's most important variables.

To arrive at a rough statistical understanding, let us begin with a few simplifying assumptions. First, assume that the BJP receives virtually no minority votes. The standard disclaimer applies: this is obviously not entirely true, but it simplifies the arithmetic.

Second, let us assume that the electorate consists of roughly 70% Hindu voters and 30% minorities. This too remains an estimate, given that India has not conducted a full Census since 2011.

If we divide the BJP's vote share by 0.7 (the denominator is translated to only Hindu electors, considered around 70% of the total votes polled), we obtain a rough estimate of Hindu vote consolidation behind the party.



The figures are revealing: approximately 54.5% in the 2021 Assembly election, nearly 58% in the 2024 parliamentary election, and around 65.5% in the just-concluded Assembly election. The direction of the trend is unmistakable. Hindu consolidation behind the BJP has not merely increased; the rate of increase has itself accelerated.

Between 2021 and 2024, the estimated rise was around 3.5 percentage points. In the following two years, that increase appears to have crossed 7.5 percentage points. That acceleration may well explain the scale of the Trinamool Congress's defeat.

A counterargument will naturally arise: sections of Hindu voters continued supporting other parties as well. That is undoubtedly true. Yet even after accounting for such corrections, the broader political conclusion remains difficult to avoid: the BJP succeeded in transforming a substantial part of West Bengal's Hindu electorate into a far more consolidated political bloc than at any previous point in the state's electoral history.

Yet the equally important development was on the other side of the electoral spectrum: minority votes did not consolidate behind the Trinamool Congress in the manner many observers anticipated.

A very small but politically significant section may even have shifted directly toward the BJP. More importantly, the fragmentation of minority votes among the Trinamool Congress, Left Front–ISF alliance, Congress, and smaller regional forces indirectly strengthened the BJP in several minority-dominated constituencies.

For example, Karandighi offers one striking example of this phenomenon. In a constituency with a substantial minority electorate, the BJP (96,260 votes) secured victory without obtaining a majority of the total votes polled.

The combined votes of the TMC (76,391) and the CPI(M) (39,414) exceeded the BJP's tally, but the division of minority votes between the two Opposition formations enabled the BJP candidate to win. The constituency, therefore, illustrates how consolidation on one side and fragmentation on the other can produce sharply asymmetric electoral outcomes. This is precisely where electoral arithmetic turns non-linear.

Initial analyses show that in 82 seats, the votes secured by the third candidate exceeded the victory margin between the winner and the runner-up.

Regional patterns also reveal how unevenly this political shift unfolded. In North Bengal, particularly in Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, and Jalpaiguri, the BJP appears to have converted its earlier parliamentary gains into a stable Assembly-level consolidation.

Border politics, citizenship narratives, and consolidation among Hindu communities combined into a durable electoral bloc. In the industrial and semi-urban belts of southern Bengal, corruption fatigue and perceptions of political criminalisation appear to have played a major role in shifting sections of lower-middle-class and urban Bengali Hindu voters towards the BJP.

The performance of the Left Front, ISF, Congress, and smaller regional parties underscores another reality of West Bengal politics: dissatisfaction alone does not automatically create a viable third force. The CPI(M)'s vote share remains below 4.5% (1 seat), while the Left Front as a whole has only marginally crossed the 5% mark. Adding the ISF's (1 seat) roughly 1.5% takes that to around 6.5%.

The Congress secured close to 3% votes and two seats. Taken together, the broader third space in West Bengal politics still commands support from roughly 10% of the electorate—approximately six million voters. That number is politically too significant to be dismissed, even if it remains insufficient at present to emerge as an independent pole of power.

Finally, with the swearing-in of Suvendu Adhikari as chief minister on Saturday, west Bengal's politics has entered a new phase. Whether this marks a durable ideological realignment or merely a powerful anti-incumbency correction remains uncertain. However, one conclusion is unavoidable: in modern Indian elections, numbers matter less in isolation than in distribution.

(The writer, a professor at Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata, is an independent analyst, studying different aspects of West Bengal politics)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Strike at the heart of boredom

It's *hubba* everyday in Bengaluru

AMBUJA NARAYAN

'Now that you are alone, how do you spend your time?' ask many acquaintances. Well, am I the first one to be in this situation? I ponder. 'It must be very boring,' say others sympathetically. My reply to this is to quote Osho: 'Only boring people feel bored.' Am I such a bore? I wonder. Nevertheless, I surely miss my spouse, who was with me for over six decades. However, life is all about change. 'The sun is new each day. We can't see the same sunrise again. 'Our hunger is new each day. That hunger is new,' say the wise.

With so much going on in Namma Bengaluru, and if supported by bubbling friends and relatives, is there scope for boredom? Even though boredom has been recognised as a powerful emotion that pervades modern society, it can spark creativity and other positive reactions.

It's *hubba* (festival)everyday in this city with its salubrious climate. To mention a few unique happenings: *avarekai mela*, *kadalekai parishe*, delightful botanical shows at Lalbagh and Cubbon Park, Chitra Santhe, malls and streets lit up for Dasara, Christmas and New Year, heritage walks, and innumerable discount sales. Not to forget yoga, walking and cycling marathons and sports activities in stadiums. For those religiously inclined, temples in and around Bengaluru are a place to be for peaceful activities. Settled in Bengaluru, family celebrations and friends' reunions can't be missed. For culture vultures, performing arts are countless. Calendar markings could be full and clashing! The latest in Bengaluru: the re-sighting of double-decker buses to venture out when grandchildren come over.

Amid all this excitement, our children visiting to spend time with us, shopping, dining and interacting with relatives and friends add up to make life joyful. For parents with children living abroad it is fortunate to have the best of both worlds and get pampered by foreign jaunts.

True, for the home-bound seniors, it could be a challenge to manage daily life with optimism. But thanks to electronic media, staying connected with youngsters and the outside world is just a click away. We can enjoy programmes of our choice to keep boredom away. Honing the 3 Rs – reading, writing and arithmetic (for minding our finances) – is important too. I would suggest friendly indoor groups among like-minded people for those who cannot step out much. Birds of the same feather can flock together.

Boredom is not tragic. According to philosophers, boredom makes us human.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extreme heat demands urgent action

I refer to 'Heat sears poor neighbourhoods as state response falls short' (May 10). The severe summer heat across Karnataka is causing immense hardship for vulnerable sections. The crisis has exposed weak urban planning and disaster preparedness. Despite frequent warnings about climate-related heatwaves, local authorities remain unprepared to protect vulnerable communities. Karnataka needs stronger heat action plans, more public cooling centres, better water supply systems, and improved healthcare response. Extreme heat is no longer seasonal discomfort, but a serious public health and governance challenge requiring urgent attention.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Fix gaps in shelters

Apropos 'Bengaluru's shelter homes face facility gaps' (May 10), the pathetic state of shelter homes constructed in Bengaluru under the DAY-NULM scheme, mostly used by daily wage workers, is disheartening. The authorities concerned must immediately conduct a survey of these homes and provide the necessary facilities. Residents, too, can be given responsibilities and incentivised for their role in maintaining the facilities.

A K Shariff, Mysuru

Sudhakar a mass leader

Senior Hiriyur MLA and Karnataka minister D Sudhakar, who passed away on Sunday, was not just a leader — he was a true mass leader. Whether he held power or not, he always responded to people's problems with compassion. Many approached him for help with hospital expenses, school fees, and various personal difficulties and did not return disappointed. Once, when our village faced a severe drinking water shortage, he arranged private water tankers and got enough borewells drilled to solve the crisis —a service we cannot forget.

M Parameshwar, Maddihalli

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...Vijay's party (TVK) will also be drowned in the swamp of corruption by Congress.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister

Cynics regarded everybody as equally corrupt... Idealists regarded everybody as equally corrupt, except themselves.

Robert Anton Wilson

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When survivability trumps superiority

From Ukraine's improvisation to Iran's endurance, both conflicts show that resilience now defines modern warfare

COL M V SHASHIDHAR (RETD)

For decades, military doctrine across the world revolved around one central belief: strike hard, dominate early, and finish wars quickly. Speed was considered decisive. Shock created paralysis. Overwhelming force was expected to break the adversary's will before the conflict stretched into uncertainty.

That grammar of warfare is beginning to erode.

From the battered trenches of Ukraine to the hardened strategic networks of Iran, a different reality is emerging. Modern wars are no longer defined merely by who attacks first or who possesses superior firepower. Increasingly, they are being shaped by who can continue functioning after absorbing punishment, disruption, and sustained pressure.

In many ways, the wars in Ukraine and Iran appear fundamentally different. One is a prolonged territorial conflict stretching across years, while the other unfolded through compressed cycles of precision strikes, retaliation, and strategic signalling. The political contexts differ. The geographies differ. Yet beneath the surface, both conflicts reveal the same strategic transformation.

Survival itself has become warfare.

Ukraine adapted while fighting and demonstrated this first and most visibly. When the conflict began, conventional wisdom suggested that a militarily superior adversary with larger resources and deeper reserves would eventually impose its will. Early battlefield setbacks, disrupted command structures, and territorial losses appeared to reinforce that assumption.

That adaptation emerged from necessity and not perfect planning. Civilian technologies entered the battlefield at astonishing speed. Commercial drones became tactical weapons. Software engineers became contributors to combat effectiveness. Innovation cycles shrank dramatically. Systems that failed in the morning were redesigned by evening and redeployed soon after.

What Ukraine understood quickly was that perfection was less important than scalability. Instead of relying solely on expensive conventional platforms, it multiplied low-cost systems and employed thousands of drones to influence the battlefield in ways few military planners had anticipated earlier. From mobile troops and formations to static assets and logistics routes, all became vulnerable to affordable technologies deployed at scale.

More importantly, Ukraine decentralised adaptation. Innovation was not confined to military headquarters alone. Units closer to the battlefield improvised continuously. Decision-making moved downward. Supply chains diversified. The result was not necessarily battlefield dominance, but something equally significant. Ukraine prevented collapse and imposed prolonged economic, operational, and psychological costs on a stronger adversary.

Iran's experience, though vastly different in tempo, reinforced the same lesson through another route. Its challenge came not through gradual attrition but through concentrated precision and decapitation strikes. Strategic sites, command structures, and defence systems came under pressure through coordinated targeting. Many expected rapid degradation and internal instability.

Iran lacked military superiority but focused on endurance. Missiles, drone swarms, layered defence systems, underground infrastructure, and dispersed operational networks formed part of a broader strategy built not around immediate victory, but around sustained survivability.

Iran demonstrated the ability to remain functional despite coalition attacks. What stood out was not technological perfection, but a strategic architecture designed around affordability, replaceability, and indigenous adaptation. Systems were built to endure disruption rather than avoid it entirely. Facilities were dispersed. Command and control decentralised. Redundancies existed across networks. The objective was clear: deny the adversary the satisfaction of quick strategic collapse.

This convergence between Ukraine and Iran signals something larger than isolated battlefield lessons. It reflects a structural shift to contests of exhaustion, persistence, and systemic resilience.

In this new environment, the economics of warfare are becoming as decisive as battlefield manoeuvres — a low-cost drone forcing the launch of a sophisticated interceptor missile, creating financial asymmetry.

For India, these are not distant academic case studies but warning calls unfolding in real time. India has already begun moving towards integrated deterrence, precision response capabilities, indigenous defence systems, and stronger civil-military coordination. Yet the evolving nature of multi-domain warfare demands deeper introspection, as future conflicts will not remain confined to physical borders alone.

The real question is not whether India possesses military strength. It does. It is whether India's systems are designed for sustained adaptation under pressure.

The wars of the future are likely to be longer, economically draining, technologically fluid, and psychologically exhausting. And that is precisely why survival itself has become strategy—the ability to absorb, adapt and deny the adversary. Ukraine adapted because it had no option. Iran endured because it had no alternative. The new playbook of twenty-first-century warfare is: You do not necessarily need to overpower a stronger adversary; you need to outlast his assumptions.

(The writer draws on his background in the battlefield, governance, and strategic leadership)

'West's misreading of RSS is partly ignorance, partly residue of a colonised viewpoint'

Mukunda C R speaks about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's unfinished tasks, expansive outreach, and global engagement. He reflects on how the Sangh views criticism and its efforts to connect with communities that feel alienated. Excerpts:

Mukunda C R,
Sah Sarkaryavah (Joint General Secretary), RSS, in conversation with
Viju Cherian

THE DEEP TAKE

● What does the centenary signify for the RSS, and how are you marking it beyond numbers?
The centenary is not just a milestone, but a checkpoint. We still have 'miles to go'. Beyond numbers, the centenary year is marked through Panch Parivartan — a five-fold social transformation initiative. This translates into large-scale outreach: about 40,000 conferences, household contact drives, and block-level meetings across castes and communities, and public interactions with eminent personalities in nearly every district.

● How would you describe the RSS' overseas presence, especially among the Indian diaspora?
Overseas work runs under a separate organisation, the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh. It now operates in 70+ countries with around 1,600 *shakhas* across five continents. The focus is cultural foundations, service, and community organisation. As Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale*ji* recently said in the United States, along with these three, we expect our diaspora to be loyal to local societies and values of their respective countries.

● What purpose do overseas engagements with universities and think-tanks serve? Is this a shift from community outreach to intellectual diplomacy?
They add a new layer rather than replace community outreach. Diaspora *shakha* work continues; the new layer is the intellectual outreach. This need was felt because many, especially in the West, do not fully understand Bharat, and that gap can no longer be left to others to fill. These engagements with universities, think-tanks, and embassies aim to achieve three objectives: correct decades of misrepresentation, present the RSS' civilisational perspective on Hindu identity, and foster people-to-people exchanges so that the message of 'one-globe, one-family' is felt.

● How do you respond to critics who see this as image management?
A century of work and lakhs of *swayamsevaks* cannot be reduced to PR. We don't propagate; we invite people to come and see. We believe that our work will speak for itself. Honest criticism deserves answers; motivated attacks do not.

● Recently, while in the US, Dattatreya Hosabale said that there is a misconception that the RSS is "some Indian version of the Ku Klux Klan". Why do you think such comparisons persist, and how do you counter them?
They persist due to decades of narrative framing that paints the RSS as Hindu-supremacist or anti-minority. Western audiences often encounter the RSS through that lens first, and not through its work. Our counter rests on three pillars: Hindu philosophy, India's history, and our conduct. We rebut factually in opinion-shaping venues, not through tit-for-tat arguments with every critic.

● Do Western academia and media misunderstand the RSS' civilisational framing of Hindu identity?
Yes — and this is one of the reasons why we started our global outreach efforts. Western frameworks read 'Hindu' as a religion or as an '-ism', which is a colonial translation. In truth, it is an inclusive civilisational sensibility, not a closed creed. This misreading is partly ignorance and partly the residue of a 'colonised viewpoint'.

● How does the RSS engage with institutions like the US Commission on International Religious Freedom that accuse it of violating religious freedom?
The Government of India has questioned USCIRF's credibility, and we see the 2026 report as part of a pattern. Our stance is not blanket rejection of dialogue, but rejection of one-sided views.

● Do international reports affect the RSS' global perception?
In the short term, they shape headlines and may generate slight traction abroad. But long-term perception follows ground reality. Sustained work, diaspora visibility, and direct intellectual engagements will gradually shift the global lens. Reports influence perception; they do not settle it.

● Who do you believe drives the narrative against the RSS, and how do you distinguish between legitimate critique and motivated campaigns?
We've identified three groups: those in Indian academia and media who have been influenced by the 'Macaulay system'; ideological currents abroad, and; political opponents in India who exploit caste and faith divisions. The intention and openness to facts can help distinguish honest critique from motivated campaign.

● How will the centenary be used to foster dialogue within India, especially with communities that feel alienated by the RSS?
Internal dialogue is the centrepiece of the centenary year. Our engagement and dialogue with well-meaning and likeminded individuals and groups have increased the confidence to our grassroots-level cadre. We will continue this. Structured dialogues with Muslim and Christian leaders have begun. The centenary message is simple: more than assertion, it's about listening, sitting together, and erasing the fault lines deepened by colonial and post-colonial politics.

As it adapts to the artificial intelligence era, Mark Zuckerberg's company is pushing many of its 78,000 workers to use the technology, and preparing to lay some of them off

NYT

Meta's embrace of AI is making its employees miserable

KALLEY HUANG, ELI TAN AND KATE CONGER

In an internal post last month, Meta told its US employees that it was making a change that would affect tens of thousands of them.

What employees typed into their computer, how they moved their mouse, where they clicked and what they saw on their screen would be tracked, Meta said. The goal, the company said, was to capture employee data so Meta's artificial intelligence models could learn "how people actually complete everyday tasks using computers."

Many workers immediately revolted. In online comments, they blasted the tracking as a privacy violation, calling it antisocial and callous.

"This makes me super uncomfortable," an engineering manager wrote in a comment in response to the announcement, which was reviewed by *The New York Times*. "How do we opt out?"

"There is no option to opt-out on your corporate laptop," replied Andrew Bosworth, Meta's chief technology officer. Employees reacted by posting more than 100 angry and surprised emoji, according to the messages.

Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's CEO, has staked the future of his company on AI by weaving the powerful technology into apps like Facebook and Instagram and spending hundreds of billions of dollars on developing AI models and data centres. But as the Silicon Valley company tries to transition from an internet firm to an AI organisation, its embrace of the technology has been awkward and, at times, downright ugly.

Meta is pushing its 78,000 employees to adopt AI tools and factoring their use of the technology in performance reviews. The company is also tracking employees' computer work to feed and train its AI models. And it is cutting jobs to offset its AI spending, saying last month that it would slash 10% of its workforce.

That has led to anger and anxiety as employees await news of whether they are affected by the layoffs, which are slated to be carried out May 20, according to 11 current and former Meta employees. Some said they no longer saw Meta as a place for a long career. Others were looking for new jobs or trying to signal that they wanted to be laid off so they could receive severance pay, the current and former employees said.

"It's incredibly demoralising," an employee who does user research wrote in an internal post, which was reviewed by the *Times*.

The angst at Meta offers a preview of what may happen at other tech companies as they increasingly incorporate AI into their workplaces. Microsoft, Block and Coinbase have recently announced layoffs or buyouts as AI has reshaped work. The technology has been particularly disruptive at tech firms because AI tools are useful at generating code, which was typically written by the software engineers who underpin many digital businesses.

"AI can potentially make everyone a better coder and help them do way more things with fewer resources, but as a result, it also brings more intensity to the daily life of the worker," said Leo Boussioux, a professor of information systems at the University of Washington. "There is no playbook for AI in the workplace yet."

In a statement, Tracy Clayton, a Meta spokesperson, said the purpose of the new employee tracking program was to train the company's AI products. "There are safeguards in place to protect sensitive content, and the data is not used for any other purpose," he said.

Reuters and *The Information* earlier reported some details of Meta's internal AI push.

Meta began reorienting itself around AI not long after OpenAI released the ChatGPT chatbot in 2022. Last summer, Zuckerberg spent billions to create a lab for "superintelligence," a futuristic form of AI that can act as the ultimate personal assistant, and overhauled its AI division. Zuckerberg, 41, has spoken at length about how superintelligence will improve people's lives.

In March, Meta organised "AI Transformation Weeks" for its workers, five current and former employees said. The aim was to teach employees how to use AI coding tools and AI agents, which are digital assistants that can do tasks by themselves. Product designers, who style the way products look and how people interact with products, were told to use AI to try coding, and software coders were told to use AI to try designing products.

Meta also introduced internal dashboards to track employees' consumption of "tokens," a unit of AI use that is roughly equivalent to four characters of text, four people said. Some said the dashboards were a pressure tactic to encourage competition with colleagues. That led some employees to make so many AI agents that others had to introduce agents to find agents, and agents to rate agents, two people said.

On April 17, *Reuters* reported that Meta would soon lay off 10% of employees. Workers fretted over whether they had been training their AI replacements, three people said.

After Meta said late last month that it would start tracking employees' computer use, hundreds of workers spoke up. "Your callousness to the concerns of your own employees is concerning," one employee told Bosworth in an internal post.

In other posts that day, employees questioned whether Meta could safely secure the data it collected from workers while using that information to train AI models.

"This data is very tightly controlled," Bosworth replied. "This will not be a leak risk."

Two days later, Meta announced that it would lay off about 8,000 people this month. The cuts will allow the company "to offset the other investments we're making," Janelle Gale, Meta's head of human resources, said in an internal message. She added, "I know this leaves everyone with nearly a month of ambiguity which is incredibly unsettling."

Some employees have since shared layoff guides and nihilistic memes. "It do not matter," read one meme shared internally. Employees have created at least three websites counting down to the May 20 layoffs, with one website's header reading, "Big Beautiful Layoff," a play on the 2025 domestic policy law that President Donald Trump called the "One Big Beautiful Bill."

Meta has hinted at more changes. "We don't really know what the optimal size of the company will be in the future," Susan Li, the chief financial officer, said during a call with investors last month. "I think there's a lot of change right now, with AI capabilities advancing rapidly."

The day after the investor call, Zuckerberg held a company-wide question-and-answer meeting, along with other executives. During the meeting, a recording of which the Times reviewed, Zuckerberg said Meta was not gathering data on employees for "surveillance or performance tracking or anything like that." Instead, the data would train AI on "how smart people use computers to accomplish tasks," he said.

"I think we know that AI is one of the most competitive fields, probably in history," Zuckerberg added.

The New York Times

The missing link in suicide prevention

RAVIKUMAR YALAGACH

India's suicide numbers are alarming. In 2023, the suicide rate was 12.3 per one lakh, higher than the global average. Beyond grief, there is also a material economic burden, estimated at over Rs 1.40 lakh-crore annually. But the real cost is the families that fracture, survivors who live with the question, "What did I miss?"

When people talk about suicide, the conversation often is in the vague form of 'stress' and 'pressure' that are not new. What is new is the scale at which people are losing the ability to carry pain without turning it inward. Suicidal behaviour is rooted in an unregulated state of mind shaped by helplessness, hopelessness, worthlessness and purposelessness. The tragedy is not that such emotions exist but that many people have never been taught how to recognise them, work through them, and cope adaptively when they spike.

The missing link in suicide prevention is not a generic appeal to 'talk about it', but the ability to name emotions accurately, regulate overwhelm, and access support before the mind locks into a fatal conclusion. That capability is emotional intelligence (EI); India must start treating it as a serious prevention tool, and not a soft skill.

The reason why EI matters is simple. For many, suicide is a short, crushing window where pain feels endless and the future feels closed. When the mind cannot tolerate distress, it searches for an exit. EI is about the difference between 'I cannot live with this feeling' and 'This feeling is unbearable, but it will pass'. A moment that can be survived can lead to a life that can continue.

Evidence on this is quite clear. EI is associated with better emotion regulation, stronger coping mechanisms, and greater access to social support, all of which reduce suicide risk. Research among adolescents shows that higher EI is linked to lower suicidal ideation; EI-focused interventions can reduce hopelessness and suicidal thoughts. Hopelessness is one of the most dangerous psychological states because it collapses the future. If EI reduces hopelessness, it reduces risk.

How much can EI help? EI perhaps will not prevent every suicide, but if EI meaningfully reduced emotional dysregulation and hopelessness at scale, the impact is large. In a country of our size, even a modest reduction in suicidal ideation translates into thousands of lives that do not cross a line in a moment of overwhelm.

If EI is a prevention lever, the next question is where prevention can actually happen at scale. It is where India has both reach and routine: education. Suicide strikes hardest during the formative and productive years. Nearly two in three deaths by suicide occur among adults between 18 and 45, and adolescents are not spared. Education and employment, often assumed to be protective, offer no immunity. Which means the problem is not that people are uneducated but that education has not been designed to prepare people for emotional reality.

Unfortunately, our current education system trains students to perform, but not to endure. It teaches them problem-solving but not to metabolise failure, rejection, shame, and conflict. When those emotions arrive, many default to suppression, isolation, or collapse. If EI is learnable and core EI capabilities are teachable, then its absence must be seen as a systemic failure rather than a personal one.

Educational institutions are among the few platforms that reach people early, consistently, sustainably, and at scale. That makes them central to any serious national response. We should stop treating EI as an optional life-skills workshop and start treating it as early-stage public health prevention. This demands two shifts. First, EI must become a core learning outcome, not an add-on that appears once a year and disappears when exams begin. Second, we must build EI across the ecosystem, not just in students, because emotional regulation cannot flourish in a culture that mocks vulnerability.

We must remember, when pain peaks, one does not rise to the level of their intentions. One falls to the level of their training. And right now, regrettably, our systems are not training people enough to stay alive in their hardest hour.

(The writer is the founder of a B2B that focuses on holistic health and wellness programmes)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

India for urgent accords on commodity issue

Nairobi, May 10
India proposed today at the fourth UN Conference on Trade and Development that it agree upon a "coordinated commodity programme" taking into account the character and components of the integrated programme and "positive elements" from some developed nations. Prof. D. P. Chattopadhyaya Commerce Minister and leader of the Indian delegation, told the plenary session of the conference that the cooperative endeavour of both the developing and developed nations at Nairobi should be to secure "definite and urgent solutions".

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Heavy turnout in Assembly polls, 13 killed in violence

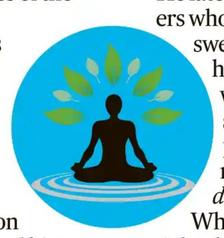
New Delhi, May 10
An average turnout of 68 percent of over 13 crore voters today marked the assembly elections in four states and the Union Territory of Pondicherry amidst violence in Assam, West Bengal and Kerala where 13 people were killed even as an exit poll predicted that Congress-led United Democratic Front is set to sweep in Kerala while the Congress will be close to majority in a hung assembly in Assam. Kerala saw 73 percent turnout, West Bengal 75 percent, Assam 70 percent, Pondicherry 75 percent and Tamil Nadu witnessed 58 percent.

OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

Karma, the unseen balance

As a child, I was inconsolable when my new footwear, left outside a temple, went missing. Those around me tried to comfort me with the phrase "*bala talli*", suggesting that any misfortune coming my way had instead passed on to the person who took my slippers. Even then, the idea felt unconvincing. I remember wondering—if misfortune could be so easily redirected, why not simply leave things behind for others to take and cleanse our destiny? I was told that would only count as generosity, perhaps earning *karmic* merit.

Years later, I see that moment differently. *Karma* is not a ledger where outcomes can be reassigned at will. Good and bad are not detachable; they are bound together, two sides of the same coin.



A small incident captures this truth. One festival morning, a man passing a sweet shop noticed trays of freshly made *laddoos*. The shop worker was momentarily distracted, and the street was empty. Temptation won. He took a tray home, and his family enjoyed the unexpected treat. By the next day, however, all of them were struck with a severe stomach infection. What began as a moment of indulgence turned into days of suffering and mounting medical expenses.

He later learned that other customers who had legitimately purchased sweets from the same shop had also fallen ill—but they were compensated by the shopkeeper, who sought to preserve his reputation. The man who had stolen the *laddoos* bore the full cost alone. What he had gained without right also denied him the possibility of redress.

The episode reflects a broader truth: the benefits we receive are inseparable from the conditions that produce them. Even inherited wealth carries not only material advantage but also the unseen imprint of how it was acquired.

This principle finds resonance in the story of Krishna's death. Though he upheld *dharma* in the *Mahabharata*, he could not escape the grief caused to Gandhari. Her curse eventually led to his death at the hands of a hunter. In that moment, Krishna is said to have accepted it as destiny—even the divine are not spared of the inevitable unfolding of cause and effect.

Karma, then, is not something we can pass on or avoid. It is something we inherit, create, and ultimately live through – whole and indivisible.

A CLOSE FRIEND, A DENTIST, A REALITY SHOW STAR AND THE YOUNGEST MLA AMONG NINE TAMIL NADU CABINET MINISTERS

N Anand

Anand has been the closest aide of Vijay for the past 15 years. Having been a Congress MLA from Bussy constituency in Puducherry from 2006-2011, Anand is an ardent Vijay fan and headed the Vijay Makkal Iyakkam, TVK's precursor. He transformed the VMI into TVK and played a key role in candidate selection. Anand is the second in command in TVK and continues to enjoy Vijay's trust.

Aadhav Arjuna

Aadhav Arjuna, son-in-law of lottery baron Santiago Martin, joined TVK in February 2025 after he was expelled from VCK, a prominent Dalit party. Aadhav Arjuna emerged as one of the key political strategists for Vijay, especially very close to the elections.

C T R Nirmal Kumar

Nirmal Kumar worked closely with the Information Technology wings of the BJP and AIADMK before jumping ship to TVK. He was also instrumental in building a digital infrastructure for TVK, besides establishing a statewide digital volunteer ecosystem.

A Rajmohan

Rajmohan shot into prominence after he emerged as the title winner of 'Tamil Pechu Engal Moochu' (Tamil is our breath), a popular television reality show, in 2008-09. Over the years, he became a popular media personality and YouTuber, nicknamed 'Put Chutney' Rajmohan. He projected himself as an "anti-establishment" activist. He won from Egmore Assembly constituency.

Keerthana Sampath

Keerthana Sampath worked with political strategist firms such as I-PAC and Showtime Consulting before taking the formal political plunge. The transition from strategy rooms to joining the campaign herself and seeking votes was very smooth for Keerthana, who scripted history by becoming the first woman MLA of Sivakasi. The 29-year-old is the youngest member in the Cabinet.

Dr K G Arunraj

Dr Arunraj took voluntary retirement as IRS officer in 2025 to join TVK and he was appointed as general secretary (propaganda) immediately. Arunraj is one of the key lieutenants of Vijay and helped him convey the actor-politician's message to families of the Karur stampede victims. He is likely to be allotted a key ministry in the TVK government.

K A Sengottaiyan

Sengottaiyan is one of the most experienced politicians in Tamil Nadu, having worked closely with two Chief Ministers – M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa – in the past. He brings with himself large political and administrative experience of having been Transport and School Education Minister. Sengottaiyan brought fresh energy and experience to TVK and helped the party organise public meetings and events without much trouble.

P Venkataramanan

Venkataramanan has worked with Vijay closely for the past several years and was appointed the Treasurer when TVK was launched. A personal friend of Vijay, Venkataramanan is a key figure in TVK and the party's Brahmin face. He won from Mylapore.

Dr T K Prabhu

Prabhu is one of the popular second-rung leaders of the TVK and he won from Karaikudi seat in Sivaganga district. A proud fan of Vijay, Prabhu hails from a Congress family and has been working among the people for the past two years, in anticipation of a ticket from the TVK. Prabhu is a dentist by profession and is quite popular on Instagram.

Vijay must prove himself beyond the spotlight as promises weigh on exchequer

Now, Jana Nayagan must walk the talk

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The transformation of Chandrasekaran Joseph Vijay from Tamil cinema superstar to chief minister of Tamil Nadu is nothing short of a blockbuster.

At 51, Vijay joins the elite club of MG Ramachandran and NT Rama Rao, becoming chief minister in the very first election they contested after launching their respective political parties.

Vijay announced the launch of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) on February 2, 2024, promising a "fundamental political change" in Tamil Nadu, long dominated by DMK and AIADMK. In just two years, he dismantled a Dravidian duopoly of 59 years, relegating both parties to the Opposition benches.

He did not sweat it out in the sweltering heat like his challengers, deliver long political speeches, or splurge on television and digital advertisements. Instead, he relied on the emotional connect he had built with the people through his on-screen charisma — the boy-next-door appeal and his plea to the electorate to "give me one chance, only one chance" worked wonders.

His repeated assertion that he had not entered homes after launching TVK, but had plunged into politics only after entering every home, struck a chord.

He never laboured to explain a complex ideology, offering instead a blend of mainstream Dravidianism and Tamil nationalism first outlined at his 2024 conference. Vijay leveraged his cult status to create the perception that he held a magic wand and was the sole harbinger of change.

An introvert by nature, Vijay is described by aides as an attentive listener. While he drew large crowds at public rallies, his real success lay in mobilising Gen Z to campaign among their older relatives.

As chief minister, Vijay faces multiple challenges, including fulfilling promises that will further burden the exchequer. He must ensure law and order is maintained and the entrenched drug culture curbed.

He will also need to navigate relations with the BJP-led Union government on several issues. Tamil Nadu has been denied its due under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for not implementing the three-language policy.

Vijay must learn the ropes of administration. Now that he is the chief minister, it is time to walk the talk — and be the Jana Nayagan the world never got to watch.

Newly-elected Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay takes a selfie with the gathering during his swearing-in ceremony in Chennai on Sunday. PTI

Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu are connected through history, culture, enterprise, and enduring people-to-people ties across generations. Our future holds immense economic promise and opportunity as Sri Lanka and India continue to build ever closer ties.

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE
President, Sri Lanka

Congratulations to Thiru C Joseph Vijay on taking oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Best wishes for his tenure ahead. The Central Government will keep working with the Tamil Nadu Government to improve the lives of people.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

We had clearly explained the financial position of the government in the February budget itself. Didn't you know that? It was only after that you made so many promises to the people. Don't deceive the people.

MK STALIN, DMK chief

DMK, AIADMK share Oppn benches for first time

CHENNAI, DHNS: As the 17th Tamil Nadu Assembly convenes for its maiden session on Monday, members of the Dravidian majors — the DMK and the AIADMK — will sit on the Opposition benches together for the first time in the state's history.

This demonstrates the changed nature and character of the House following the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)'s arrival on the state's political scene.

The Treasury benches will be occupied mostly by newcomers, including Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and the TVK leaders who won the April 23 assembly elections.

Of the 107 TVK MLAs, 93 are debutants, and 41 are under the age of 40, making it one of the youngest Assemblies in the state's history.

The young legislators, most of whom are tech-savvy and popular on social media platforms like Instagram, are expected to feel at home as they will have large tablet screens at their seats, displaying the day's agenda and other policy documents. The Tamil Nadu Assembly went almost paperless in 2021 after the DMK came to power.

Another notable change in the seating arrangement is that the Congress, which played second fiddle to the Dravidian majors ever since it was unseated by the then fledgling DMK in 1967, will occupy the Treasury benches for the first time in 59 years.

Since 1967, the DMK and the AIADMK, which came to power in 1977, four years after the legendary M G Ramachandran floated it, have ruled the state alternatively.

Now, for the first time, their legislators will sit together. In all probability, former CM Edappadi K Palaniswami and former DyCM Udhayanidhi Stalin will occupy the front rows on the opposite side of the aisle.

While the DMK is used to occupying Opposition benches for more than one Assembly term (five years), this is the first time the AIADMK will occupy them for a consecutive term.

Moreover, the AIADMK has lost the principal Opposition status to the DMK, whose member will be the Leader of the Opposition, who enjoys the power of a minister.

Udhayanidhi to be Leader of Oppn

CHENNAI, DHNS: Former deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has been elected as the DMK Legislature Party leader, making him the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. Former ministers K N Nehru will be the deputy leader and E V Velu will be the whip.

This marks a generational shift in leadership in the DMK, and hints at the party's succession plan.

Udhaya's main adversary will be Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. They were friends for a long time, but fell out a couple of years ago.

Udhaya — DMK chief M K Stalin's son — was elected as an MLA for the second time from the Chepauk-Tiruvallikeni seat.

Though there were suggestions that he should step back and allow seniors, who have experience in the Opposition, to take over as the LoP, the DMK decided otherwise.

Controversy over national song

▸ Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's swearing-in ceremony, beginning with a rendition of "Vande Mataram" and the state anthem being relegated to the third position, has led to a major row in Tamil Nadu. The newly sworn-in minister Aadhav Arjuna said the Governor's office was insistent in following the Home Ministry order. "Due to such a situation, the State Anthem was played as the third song," he said.

Different forms of oath-taking

▸ Vijay took the oath in the name of God, following in the footsteps of his predecessors J Jayalalithaa, O Panneerselvam, and E Palaniswami. However, his Cabinet colleague Aadhav Arjuna was the only one to follow a tradition started by DMK founder C N Annadurai, who took his oath by solemnly affirming instead of in the name of God.

Parents and allies in the front row

▸ S A Chandrasekaran and Shobha, parents of CM C Joseph Vijay, were seated in the front row at his swearing-in ceremony. Both became emotional when Vijay took his oath. Leaders from the CPM, CPI, VCK, IUML, and the Congress, who are supporting the TVK government, were also seated in the front row. Vijay's long-time co-star Trisha Krishnan was also seated in the front row.

'Cong in Cabinet in 2nd phase'

▸ Congress will join the TVK government in Tamil Nadu when CM C Joseph Vijay expands his council of ministers after the trust vote this week. Sources said the Congress could not come to a decision on whom to include in the cabinet which led to dropping of the plan. The party will have to wait for some time to be part of the government.

The transition to yellow

▸ Moments after Vijay was sworn in as the chief minister, social media pages handled by the Department of Information and Public Relations underwent a massive change. The backgrounds were changed to yellow, Vijay's favourite colour and the colour of the TVK flag. Even the graphics cards released to the media about the swearing-in had a yellow background.

Dramatic return to Nehru stadium

▸ Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, where he was sworn in, is not a new place for Vijay. He has spoken from the same stadium on many occasions, but they were audio launches of his movies. His last visit was in November 2023, for the success meet of his movie, 'Leo'. He was asked about 2026, and he said, 'Cup'u mukkiyam, Bigilu' (Winning the cup is important).

Suvendu aide's murder: UPI transaction provides key lead

KOLKATA, PTI: Investigators probing the murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's close aide Chandranath Rath have found a key lead in the form of a UPI transaction made at a toll plaza in Howrah, an officer said on Sunday.

The silver car allegedly used in the killing crossed the Bally toll plaza shortly before the attack, and the occupants paid the toll through UPI, he said.

"The UPI transaction helped the investigators identify a mobile number linked to one of the suspects," he added.

Cong deadlocked on Kerala CM; talks to continue

No decision as Rahul, Kharge hold meetings with three contenders

WIDER CONSULTATIONS

- Congress balances victory with caution in Kerala
- Leadership to seek wider consultations
- Decision delayed to protect unity; leadership wary of vertical split
- Venugopal backed by MLAs, Satheesan by workers
- High command wary of pressure tactics

ARJUN RAGHUNATH & SHEMIN JOY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress took its decision to ditch the DMK and side with the TVK in Tamil Nadu within hours, but has delayed naming its chief minister in Kerala, as the issue has divided party workers. Sources said the leadership wanted to contain public displays of support for contenders before making an announcement.

The delay in finalising the CM — despite the Congress-led UDF's historic win of 102 seats in the 140-member House — is also fuelling resentment among people. Poster and banner campaigns for the three contenders were halted, but social media remains abuzz with criticism over the delay.

On Saturday, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi held individual and collective meetings for nearly three hours with the three contenders — KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala — along with Kerala chief Sunny Joseph, in-charge Deepa Dasmunsi and observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik. Despite the discussions, a decision remained elusive.

Both Kharge and Rahul were upset over the demonstrations in Kerala, especially those staged by Satheesan's supporters. For the leadership, the priority was to stop such factional manoeuvres and have the trio issue a joint appeal after the meeting.

The central leadership felt that announcing any name amid these demonstrations would have vertically divided the party and taken the sheen off both the swearing-in ceremony and the emphatic victory of the Congress-led UDF in the state. They did not want the new government to begin on the wrong foot, sources said.

A decision will not be rushed, and both Kharge and Rahul are expected to hold wider consultations, including with Sonia Gandhi and AK Antony. They may also consider the views of senior leaders in Kerala, including former state chiefs, as a perception has grown that Satheesan enjoys enormous public support, sources said.

While Venugopal commands overwhelming support within the legislature party, Satheesan has emerged as the preferred choice of party workers and allies. Chennithala, the senior-most among the Kerala leaders, has held key assignments both in the government and within the party in the past.

As the Congress has traditionally gone with the leader backed by MLAs, the Venugopal camp believes the decision will tilt in their favour.

Left reviews poll debacle; Kerala loss seen as voter 'caution'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The CPM and CPI on Sunday reviewed the election results, in which the Left lost its lone state government in Kerala even as it managed to secure a seat in West Bengal.

The CPM Polit Bureau began its two-day meeting, while the CPI concluded its two-day National Council in New Delhi, where leaders analysed the results threadbare and discussed political developments in Tamil Nadu.

At the CPI National Council and National Executive meetings over the weekend, sources said concerns were raised about the Left losing power in Kerala and, for the first time in nearly 60 years, not being in power in any state.

Sources said leaders felt the result was driven by voters, including Left sympathisers, casting ballots against the LDF. A view emerged that a third consecutive term could prove detrimental to the Left, and this perception influenced the outcome.

There was also concern that a third term might allow the BJP to gain ground in Kerala, given the Congress' decline.

CPI Kerala Secretary Binoy Viswam said the Kerala defeat was a "caution" from the people. In an apparent reference to Vijayan, he added that hero worship within the Left was wrong.

Statues of Santhal icons latest targets of vandals

ARKADEV GHOSHAL
KOLKATA, DHNS

Less than one week has passed since the BJP came to power in West Bengal, and the state has already witnessed a slew of incidents where statues and portraits of politicians and cultural icons have been vandalised and defaced.

The latest incident has been reported from the South Dinajpur district, where miscreants vandalised the statues of Santhal Rebellion icons Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu on Friday night.

Reports say that the hands of the statues — installed in Banshihari's Deuria village a decade ago as a testament to Adivasi heritage — had been broken, and BJP flags had been tied to them.

Residents discovered them in that condition on Saturday morning, and protests broke out, leading to some roads being blocked.

A lock is seen at a Trinamool Congress office, in Kolkata, on Sunday. PTI

The police managed to bring the situation under control, reportedly clearing the road blockade by noon.

Banshihari Police Station Inspector-in-Charge Swapan Biswas told *DH* over the phone on Sunday that an FIR had been registered and investigations were underway.

"Police pickets are active in the area, and senior police officials are visiting the spot regularly. The area is peaceful now, and no escalation has been allowed or reported," he said.

Meanwhile, local BJP and TMC leaders traded charges, accusing each other of the incident.

Previous incidents

It had started with the vandalism of a statue of Communist icon Vladimir Lenin in Jiaganj in Murshidabad on May 5 — a day after the election results were declared.

The CPM was quick to condemn the act, holding a demonstration there. The police took up the case, and five people were arrested.

Similar allegations emerged after visuals from South Kolkata's Asutosh College showed some miscreants applying saffron tilaks on portraits of Bengali icons, including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar.

6 new faces in UP Cabinet as BJP balances caste equations

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Six new ministers were inducted in the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Sunday as part of its much-awaited expansion, taking the number of ministers in the state to 60.

The new faces included Samajwadi Party (SP) rebel Manoj Pandey, Bhupendra Choudhary, Krishna Paswan, Hansraj Vishwakarma, Surendra Singh Diler, and Kailash Rajput.

Meanwhile, two ministers of state — Ajeet Pal and Somendra Tomar — were promoted and given independent charge of their departments.

Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at the Jan Bhavan.

The choice of the new ministers appeared to reveal that the BJP had sought to balance caste and regional equations before the 2027 Assembly polls.

While one of the new ministers hails from the Brahmin community, three are from OBCs, and two are Dalits.

The party has sought to placate Brahmins by inducting Pandey into the Cabinet, in the wake of a meeting by the party's Brahmin MLAs, where many complained that their community was being sidelined.

With Krishna Paswan, an MLA from Fatehpur district and a Dalit, the BJP has tried to expand its reach into the non-Jatav Dalit community. The Paswans are considered influential in several Assembly seats in Central UP and Bundelkhand. Surendra Singh Diler is another new face from Dalits.

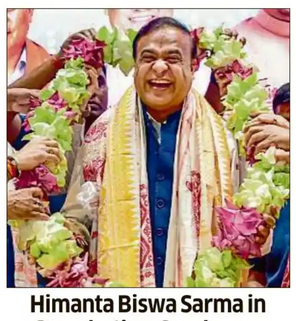
NDA MLAs choose Himanta as CM; oath-taking tomorrow

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

BJP MLAs in Assam on Sunday elected Himanta Biswa Sarma as the leader of the Legislature Party, effectively making him the chief minister for a second consecutive term.

Legislators of the BJP's regional allies — the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) — also endorsed the resolution regarding Sarma as their leader.

All 82 BJP MLAs met at the party's state headquarters here at around 11 am on Sunday, where they unanimously elected Sarma as their leader in the presence of Union Health Minister J P Nadda and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini — two Central observers appointed by the party.



Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati on Sunday. PTI

Sarma later met Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at the Lok Bhavan here and staked the claim to form the new government.

Acharya invited him to form the new Council of Ministers, according to a statement issued by Lok Bhavan — the Governor's official residence.

The Sarma-led government is expected to take oath at a mammoth ceremony at the College of Veterinary Science Playground on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest while Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, CMs and Deputy CMs of NDA-ruled states, and others are expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

The results

In the results of the Assembly elections announced on May 4, the BJP and its allies registered a record victory for the third straight term by winning 102 out of the total 126 seats in the House.

The BJP bagged 82, while the AGP and BPF bettered their tallies, with 10 seats each.

India, Trinidad and Tobago sign 8 agreements

PORT OF SPAIN, PTI: India and Trinidad and Tobago have signed eight agreements in sectors including tourism, healthcare, infrastructure and Ayurveda during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's two-day visit to the Caribbean nation, according to an official statement.

Jaishankar, who visited the Caribbean nation on May 8-9, held talks with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and other senior leaders on expanding bilateral cooperation and reviewed progress on announcements made during PM Narendra Modi's visit to T&T last year.

S Jaishankar

In the presence of Persad-Bissessar, Jaishankar handed over the first batch of 2,000 laptops to selected schoolchildren, and inaugurated an agro-processing facility. According to the MEA statement, discussions also covered cooperation in infrastructure, security, forensics, healthcare and capacity building.

PM urges fuel savings amid West Asia conflict impact

Suggests reviving practices adopted during Covid-19 pandemic

HYDERABAD, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration programme of 'Sindhu Hospital' in Hyderabad on Sunday. PTI

Emphasising that the Centre is trying to shield people from the adverse impact of the conflict in West Asia, PM Narendra Modi on Sunday called for judicious use of fuel, postponement of gold purchases and foreign travel, among other measures, to strengthen the economy.

Addressing a rally organised by the Telangana BJP here, he suggested reducing petrol and diesel consumption, using metro rail services in cities, carpooling, increased use of electric vehicles, utilising railway services for parcel movement, and working from home to conserve foreign exchange amid the crisis in West Asia.

Stressing the need to save foreign exchange due to the crisis, Modi called for postponing the purchase of gold and foreign travel for one year.

"We have to save foreign exchange by any means," he said, adding that due to the West Asia conflict, prices of petrol and fertilisers had increased significantly.

When there is pressure on the supply chain, difficulties increase despite various government measures to address the situation, he said. "That's why, during a global crisis, keeping the country above all else, we have to take resolutions," he added.

"We got into work-from-home, virtual meetings, video conferencing, and many other methods during Covid-19. We got habituated to them. The need of the hour is to resume those methods," Modi said.

He called for reducing the consumption of edible oil, lowering the use of chemical fertilisers, promoting natural farming and Swadeshi products to save foreign exchange and make the country self-reliant.

Stating that the BJP had secured a massive majority in the recently held Assembly polls in West Bengal, Modi said he saw similar enthusiasm in Telangana.

He said that the people of Telangana also want change.

In a sharp attack on Congress, he said its priority is not serving the people but promoting divisive and hateful politics.

He alleged that Congress makes lofty promises to come to power only to forget them later.

Woman foils sex assault bid on 6-yr-old on train

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A woman's timely intervention prevented a sexual assault bid on a minor girl on a train in Kerala.

The incident occurred when the six-year-old from TN was travelling with her grandfather recently.

Veena, a co-passenger, said the accused — Sanish (46) — first tried to disturb her, and then misbehaved with the girl in another section of the compartment.

She alerted co-passengers. The police were then informed, and arrested him.

SIT questions ex-women's panel chief in Maha 'godman' case

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

NCP leader Rupali Chakankar on Sunday appeared before the special investigation team (SIT) for questioning over her alleged association with self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, who is currently under arrest in rape and sexual exploitation cases.

Rupali, who resigned as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women amid the controversy, said that she would fully cooperate with the probe.

"Whatever information I have, I will share with the Nashik police and SIT," she said before heading to record her statement.

She has been under fire after videos surfaced showing her with Kharat, in which she was heard praising the so-called godman. Over months, several politicians and NGOs have demanded that she be made a co-accused and arrested in the case.

The state government has set up an SIT to probe 12 cases of sexual assault and financial fraud registered against Kharat in Nashik and Ahilyanagar districts.

Meanwhile, MVA leaders stepped up the attack on the government on the issue. The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has alleged that four ministers in the Maha Yuti government had links with Kharat.

State Congress president Nana Patole reiterated that Kharat's life was in danger in custody. "I am going to submit a letter to the chief minister seeking the removal of four ministers who are linked to Kharat," he said.

Evening rush hours saw most accidents in 2024: NCRB

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The peak period for road accidents in India during 2024 was between 6 pm and 9 pm, with over one-fifth of all incidents across the country that year occurring during these three hours, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

The report revealed that 20.4% of total road accidents — 1,01,232 cases — took place between 6 pm and 9 pm in 2024.

This was followed by the 3 pm-to-6 pm slot, which accounted for 17.1% (84,837) of the total 4,95,256 traffic accidents recorded during the year.

Two-wheelers continued to be the biggest contributor to fatal road accidents, with 84,599 deaths — 48.3% of all road accident fatalities — associated with them. Pedestrians accounted for 14.7% (25,769 deaths), while cars contributed 13.6% (23,739 deaths).

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh reported the highest two-wheeler-related fatalities. Tamil Nadu recorded 11,786 deaths (13.9% of the nationwide two-wheeler deaths), followed by Uttar Pradesh with 8,575 deaths (10.1%).

UP also dominated in other categories: It reported 19.3% of all SUV/car/jeep fatalities (4,575 out of 23,739) and a staggering 26.3% of truck/lorry/mini-truck deaths (3,628 out of 13,815).

The state further accounted for 29.8% of all bus-related fatalities nationwide in 2024.

In pedestrian deaths, Tamil Nadu reported 16.2% (4,176) of all such cases that year.

May emerged as the most accident-prone month of 2024, with 41,364 cases (8.8% of the annual total). This was marginally ahead of March, which saw 41,193 accidents.

The data showed a clear rural-urban divide, with 59.7% of accidents (2,79,412 out of 4,67,967 cases) occurring in rural areas and 40.3% (1,88,555) in urban areas.

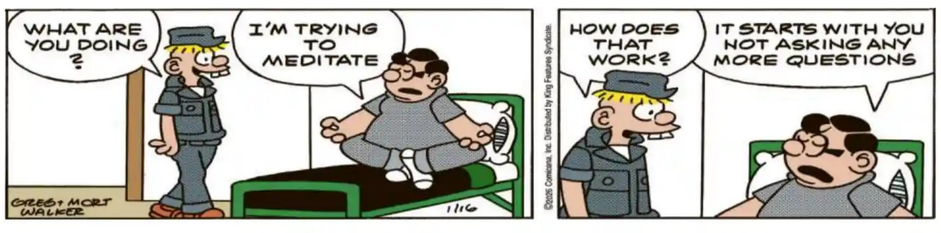
MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

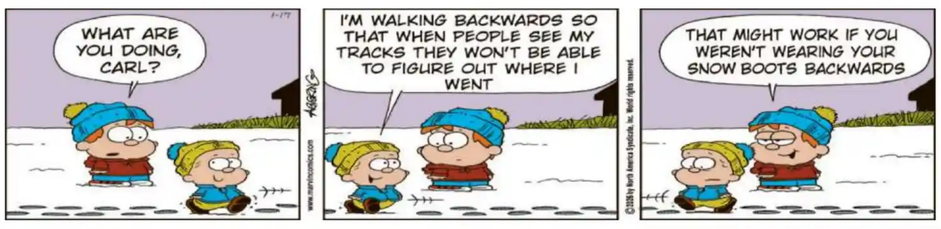
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

Marvin



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

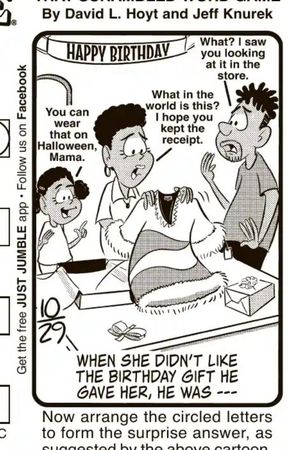
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LNKTE

AMWCA

NECCTA

CBTKUE



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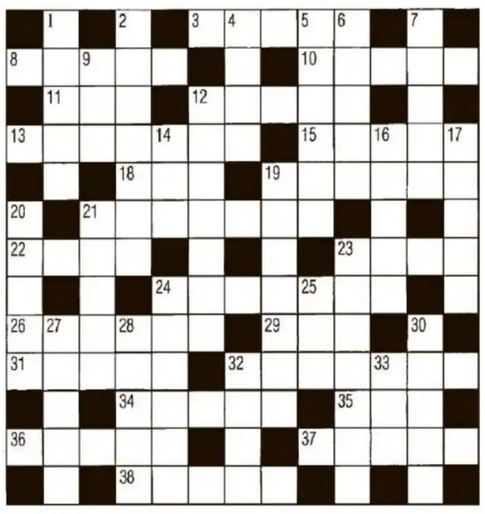
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: IRONY EVENT FORMAL LETTER
Answer: The Tower of Pisa's building inspectors were — TOO "LEAN-IENT"

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12413



ACROSS
3 Squander (5)
8 Bereaved wife (5)
10 Planet's path (5)
11 High hill (3)
12 Happen again (5)
13 Nullifies (7)
15 Sits for an artist (5)
18 A joke, informally (3)
19 Tranquil (6)
21 South American dance (7)
22 In addition (4)
23 Frame of mind (4)
24 Whaler's spear (7)
26 Store wine here (6)
29 Play on words (3)
31 Guide (5)
32 Scoffs at (7)
34 Army officer (5)
35 Summit (3)
36 One giving blood (5)
37 Engine (5)
38 On no occasion (5)

DOWN
1 Sinks one's teeth into (5)
2 Rummages about (7)
4 Primates (4)
5 Hairpiece (6)
6 Mistake (5)
7 Female fox (5)
9 Trouble, plague (3)
12 Normal (7)
14 Label (3)
16 Attack (3,2)
17 Shabby (5)
19 Photographer (7)
20 Glasses (5)
21 Military instrument (5)
23 School prefect (7)
24 Zimbabwean capital (6)
25 Belonging to us (3)
27 Distinctive character (5)
28 Fruit (5)
30 Warehouse (5)
32 Curved roof (4)
33 Decimal point (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Begin to be jumpy (5)
8 Simple saint? (5)
10 Hard-hearted line that can be deadly (5)
11 Front of a vehicle? (3)
12 Mickey Mouse sort of pet, but heavenly! (5)
13 Figure fit to be defensible (7)
15 As a subject, the best, I see (5)
18 Dried leaves (3)
19 Is it blooming high? (6)
21 Measure out aid, perhaps, as a go-between? (7)
22 Was sorry to sound a bit crude (4)
23 The authentic side of Madrid (4)
24 Is water in them partly frozen? (7)
26 It's shrewd to shout about being behind (6)
29 Beast taking a battering? (3)
31 It's his job to provide cover (5)
32 Much admired, she sounds a dope! (7)
34 The baseman gave a beastly cry! (5)
35 Revenue vessel? (3)
36 About-turn in forming a link in space (5)
37 Start again with a newer system (5)
38 Figure neon anew to be a gaseous element (5)

DOWN
1 Though brown, this pool has a red strip (5)
2 Not dead, perhaps, but in a sense passed over (7)
4 Possibly late with a story (4)
5 It sounds shaky (6)
6 There's nothing in port, perhaps, for soldiers (5)
7 Does his chest look inflamed? (5)
9 Native of Normandy? (3)
12 Clearly not mountainous (7)
14 The place for the rest of the flowers (3)
16 Plenty of support (5)
17 Battery units (5)
19 In no condition to go streaking (7)
20 Treatise on a part of the country (5)
21 Gong with a ribbon attached (5)
23 Shifted to form a ìDî (7)
24 New stoker aboard a boat (6)
25 Source of a bit of a scare on the road? (3)
27 Arrange to make a vehicle costlier (3,2)
28 Mendelssohn's cat? (5)
30 Bury in Milan? (5)
32 The Romans' ideal (4)
33 One-one will suit him (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 2679

ACROSS: 1 Hawaii, 4 Flotilla, 9 Thirst, 10 Panorama, 12 Overseas, 13 Ablaze, 15 Tilt, 16 Left behind, 19 Right of way, 20 Stow, 23 Sombre, 25 As it were, 27 Old timer, 28 Hit out, 29 Delegate, 30 Heckle.

DOWN: 1 Hotfoot, 2 White flag, 3 Insist, 5 Lead, 6 Troubled, 7 Llama, 8 At an end, 11 Rake-off, 14 Strauss, 17 In the dock, 18 Sterling, 19 Respond, 21 Wrestle, 22 Strife, 24 Model, 26 Feat.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6902 ◆

							8	7
8	5	1						4
		4		9	8			
	8	9		3				1
		6				2		
4				2		8	9	
			2	5		7		
7						5	4	9
9								

hard

SOLUTION TO 6901

3	1	8	6	2	9	7	4	5
9	5	7	8	3	4	6	2	1
6	4	2	5	1	7	3	8	9
5	9	6	7	4	2	1	3	8
1	8	4	3	5	6	9	7	2
7	2	3	9	8	1	5	6	4
4	3	1	2	7	5	8	9	6
8	6	5	4	9	3	2	1	7
2	7	9	1	6	8	4	5	3

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1 W4 R1 F4 Y4 Z10 O1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 1

O1 V4 T1 E1 E1 I1 M3 — Triple Word Score — RACK 2

H4 U1 D2 B3 E1 S1 R1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 3

U1 A1 L1 S1 T1 K5 E1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 215-225
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 P3 P3 L1 E1 S1 — RACK 1 = 20
S1 U1 B3 F4 U1 S1 C3 — RACK 2 = 92
L1 E1 V4 E1 L1 S1 — RACK 3 = 9
W4 E1 E1 D2 I1 N1 G2 — RACK 4 = 70
PAR SCORE 125-135 — JUDD'S TOTAL 191

HITORI-3356

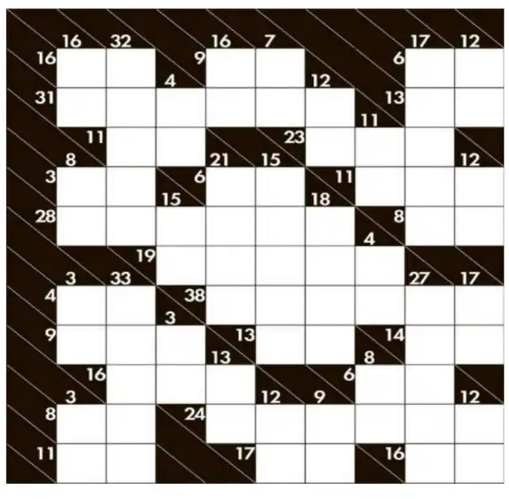
4	7	8	2	5	6	5	3
2	4	1	5	4	5	7	5
4	5	5	4	4	1	8	2
7	1	6	8	5	4	3	4
5	4	7	6	3	8	5	4
6	4	4	3	2	4	1	8
8	8	4	1	3	2	4	5
3	3	2	4	7	5	4	1

SOLUTION TO 3355

2	■	8	■	7	■	1	5
3	6	2	4	5	8	■	1
5	■	6	■	1	■	3	7
1	3	■	5	■	4	7	6
4	7	3	6	8	2	5	■
■	5	7	1	■	6	8	2
7	8	5	■	2	1	■	4
6	■	1	7	■	5	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3356



SOLUTION TO 3355

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3912

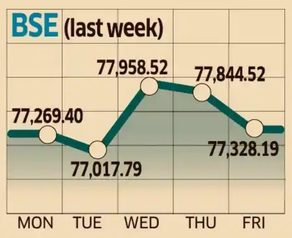
			5					
2	4	5	8		1			
			2					
							3	
1		8		7	3		6	
5			4			8		1
		3						
	1					7		
			7	2				

SOLUTION TO 3911

6	9	7	5	4	8	2	1	3
5	3	8	2	1	9	6	4	7
4	2	1	6	7	3	5	8	9
1	8	3	9	5	2	4	7	6
2	5	4	7	8	6	9	3	1
9	7	6	1	3	4	8	5	2
8	1	9	3	2	5	7	6	4
3	6	5	4	9	7	1	2	8
7	4	2	8	6	1	3	9	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

BSE (last week)



*Data as of May 8

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
M&M	7.51%	SBIN	-4.54%
ASIANPAINT	6.37%	TCS	-3.18%
ADANIPORTS	6.35%	BHARTIARTL	-2.71%
INDIGO	5.27%	ITC	-2.40%
BAJAJFINSV	3.97%	POWERGRID	-1.37%

NSE (last week)

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
MAHI & MAHI	7.52%	ONGC	-6.79%
SHRIRAM FIN	7.51%	COAL INDIA	-5.20%
BAJAJ AUTO	7.10%	SBI	-4.60%
ASIAN PAINTS	6.36%	TATA CONSULT	-3.21%
GRASIM INDUS	6.23%	BHARTI AIRTEL	-2.77%

Sensex (52-week)

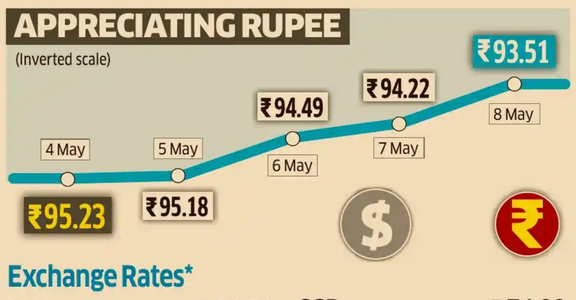
May 8, 2025	May 8, 2026	
80,334.81	77,328.19	-3.74%

Nifty (52-week)

May 8, 2025	May 8, 2026	
24,273.80	24,176.15	-0.40%

10-year Bond yield 6.98%

APPRECIATING RUPEE



Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹93.51	SGD	₹74.39
Pound	₹128.30	Yen (100 units)	₹60.24
Euro	₹110.92		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$101.29*
1.23%
*Rate as of May 8

Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%
*Rates as of May 9 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹23300 - 23900
Arabica Cherry	₹12000 - 13300
Robusta Parchment	₹18000 - 18400
Robusta Cherry	₹8500 - 9500

*Rates as on May 7

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹626
Cross Breed (CB)	₹519

*Average rates as on May 8

National Technology Day: Focus on responsible innovation for inclusive growth

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

From banking, retail, life sciences to travel, technology plays a very important role across all sectors. Every year, National Technology Day is celebrated in India on May 11 to commemorate the Pokhran-II nuclear tests. The day also highlights advancements in science and technology. The theme for this year is 'Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth', which highlights the advancement of indigenous technology and AI for equitable development.

EdTech company Great Learning in its report said that professionals from non-technical educational backgrounds accounted for 66% of enrolments in its AI programmes in FY26. The findings reflect a growing shift in the country's upskilling landscape, where professionals across functions are adopting no-code AI tools to enhance productivity and operational efficiency to stay relevant in an AI-driven workplace.

Great Learning has introduced no-code learning tracks across most of its portfolio, including Data Science, Machine Learning, GenAI, and Agentic AI programmes. Arjun Nair, Co-founder, Great Learning said, "National Technology Day reminds us that India's biggest technology breakthroughs have always been about making technology accessible to more people. AI is no longer limited to technical teams. Today, professionals across functions, whether in finance, healthcare, or supply chain, can use powerful AI tools without needing deep coding expertise. They can automate workflows, generate insights, and improve how their organisations operate simply by understanding what AI can do and how to use it effectively."

Right now, the focus should narrow to maximising the value AI brings. As AI evolves into new phases, India's workforce must keep pace, said Vinay Pradhan, Country Manager & Senior Director, India & South Asia, Udemy.

Udemy-YouGov research revealed they are still navigating their practical application in specific roles.

Organisations should meet employees where they are and provide targeted learning experiences that drive their career journeys. No employee, regardless of background or current skill level, should feel detached from these technologies. Instead, learning should be charted so everyone becomes capable of building their own growth path, Pradhan said. They can leverage the power of AI to diagnose employee function, goals, and skill gaps to curate personalised learning journeys. It enables businesses to seamlessly embed learning into the flow of work, continuously adapting based on progress to keep it practical, nimble and relevant to specific roles and business outcomes. It empowers employees to apply new capabilities in real time and grow alongside the business, he added.

Here are views of experts across different sectors on this National Technology Day

"As the adoption of every wave of technology accelerates across enterprises and society, we must embrace the use of responsible innovation to improve the quality of lives of our fellow citizens. We are navigating an era of increased technology autonomy, and we believe that humans should remain accountable for the outcomes. Technology is a force multiplier and an accelerator to design and develop human-centric solutions."

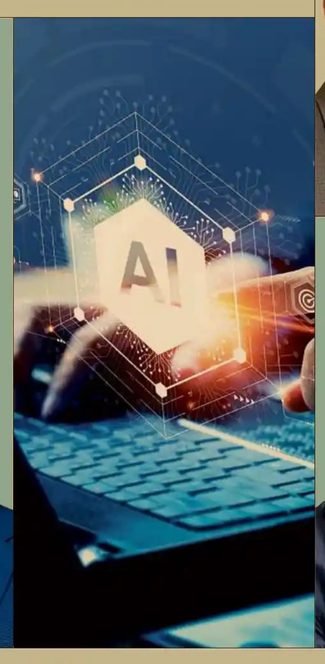
SANDHYA ARUN,
Chief Technology Officer, Wipro Limited

"Responsible innovation is not simply about developing AI/ML and enhancing cybersecurity – it's about creating resilient digital environments that support collaboration among governments, businesses, and citizens to foster comprehensive growth. The future of our societies will rely upon solutions that are ethical, transparent, and strategically engineered to create material outcomes across massive populations."

DIPESH RANJAN,
Sr Vice-President, Cyble – a global AI-powered cybersecurity company

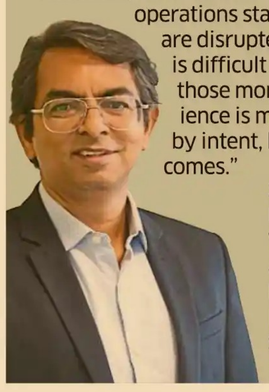
"Indian enterprises are rapidly moving from the experimental stage to enterprise-wide AI adoption. Organisations that succeed in this evolution will be those that integrate governance, security, and human oversight at the core of their AI and cloud strategies. And those who fail at AI will not do so due to a lack of technology, but rather a disregard for 'accountability'. In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, where data sovereignty, cyber risk, and supply-chain resilience are critical, trust is what determines competitive advantage. Therefore, enterprises will need technologies that are stable, secure, and locally adaptable."

ANAND SAMPATH,
India Head & CEO of BPS, Visionet Systems



"India's technology moment will not be defined by how much we build, but by how intelligently and inclusively we deploy it. As AI, semiconductors, and connected systems converge, the real opportunity lies in engineering outcomes, not just outputs."

RAJIV C MODY,
CMD & CEO, Sasken Technologies



"As AI, cloud and digital services become embedded in businesses, public services and critical infrastructure, the defining question is no longer how fast India can digitise, but how well it can recover when disruption inevitably occurs. Cyber resilience sits at the heart of that challenge. When data becomes unavailable, the impact is immediate: operations stall, services are disrupted, and trust is difficult to regain. In those moments, resilience is measured not by intent, but by outcomes."

SANDEEP Bhambure,
Vice-President and Managing Director – India and SAARC, Veeam Software

"While rapid advancements in drones and AI signal strong momentum, their long-term scalability will depend on building a resilient, indigenous semiconductor ecosystem. For India, tech sovereignty is not just about innovation, but about owning the entire value-chain. The focus now must be on enabling startups with patient capital, strengthening R&D, and ensuring consistent policy execution to turn this $100-billion opportunity into a sustainable global advantage."

PREET SANDHU,
Founder, AVPL International & Promoter, iQuantara

"Many organisations today are accelerating AI adoption without fully addressing accountability, creating blind spots around bias, explainability, and control. Addressing this requires a fundamental reset. AI must be built with strong data foundations, transparent decision-making, and secure-by-design architectures. Equally important is ensuring inclusivity, designing systems that work across diverse populations and do not deepen existing divides.

ANURADHA NATARAJAN, Head of Technology Strategy and Engineering Operations, Altimetrik

Bluspring Enterprises targets Rs 5,000 crore revenue by FY28

It made two acquisitions in less than a year after demerging from Quess Corp

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based Bluspring Enterprises Limited, an integrated infrastructure services enterprise demerged from Quess Corp last year, has drawn up an ambitious plan to achieve an annual turnover of Rs 5,000 crore in the next three years.

Growth will be driven by scaling high-margin businesses such as Food & Hospitality and entering new opportunities in the sports, events, and hospitality sectors. The company aims to grow the business through both organic and inorganic means to build a differentiated, nationally-scaled integrated infrastructure services enterprise, said Kamal Pal Hoda, Executive Director and CEO, Bluspring Enterprises.

In less than a year, the company has made two acquisitions.

"We are targeting a consistent 20% year-on-year growth through 2030, with the ambition of achieving Rs 3,400 crore by FY26 and Rs 5,000 crore by FY28. This will be supported by a continued focus on margin expansion and improving EBITDA from the current level of 4% to 6% by FY28," Hoda told *DH*.

The food and hospitality space currently contributes approximately 15% of the revenue, and it aims to increase that to 30% of total revenue, he said.

Kamal Pal Hoda

Recently, Bluspring acquired 100% of the shares in STEAG Energy Services India Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of STEAG Power GmbH, a leading German energy company.

Its other wholly-owned subsidiary, Bluspring New Horizon Two Private Limited (BNHTPL) has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire 100% shareholding of LSG Sky Chefs (India) Private Limited (LSG India), marking its strategic entry into the aviation catering sector. LSG India is ultimately owned by AURELIUS, a global private equity investor widely recognised for its operational approach, and operates airline catering facilities at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.

Supported by a workforce of over 400 employees, LSG India's Bengaluru operations generate revenue of over Rs 110 crore and mid-to-high-teens EBITDA margins.

"We are bullish about the food business where we have better margins. Engineering services is another area that is attractive for us to look into for future growth," Hoda said.

Currently, Bluspring delivers 3 lakh meals a day across its clients and expects to earn Rs 400 crore revenue from the food business by the end of FY2026.

"We will double our revenues in three years since the demerger from Quess Corp with about 30% CAGR," Hoda added.

FMCG firms bracing for price hikes again

NEW DELHI, PTI

Daily essential products such as soaps, detergents, biscuits, packaged foods, and beverages are expected to get costlier as leading FMCG companies are preparing for calibrated price hikes on account of rising crude-linked inflation, higher packaging costs, and fuel expenses from geopolitical disruptions that are squeezing margins.

The executives of FMCG makers, which have already gone for recent price hikes of around 3% to 5%, in their latest earnings calls have indicated either ongoing price increases or readiness to raise prices further, citing inflationary pressure arising from volatile crude oil prices, higher logistics costs, currency depreciation and disruptions in global supply chains amid geopolitical tensions.

This pressure is being felt across sectors, including food, personal care, beverages and household products, as FMCG companies are attempting to balance their margins and are resorting to either price hikes or shrinking pack sizes, retaining the popular smaller SKUs of Rs 5, 10 or 15 in the market, to maintain sales volumes.

Though FMCG companies are focusing on price elasticity and internal cost efficiencies'such as trimming discounts and promotions, tightening inventory management, and streamlining supply chains'to cushion the impact, consumers are still expected to bear part of the burden through calibrated price hikes and reduced grammage.

Home-grown FMCG maker Dabur India Global CEO Mohit Malhotra said the company is already facing 10% inflation this fiscal and has initiated price increases to cushion the impact.

Biscuits maker Britannia has also indicated imminent price hikes to offset nearly a 20% rise in fuel and packaging costs due to geopolitical developments.

DH INTERVIEW

'Big firms get 13-15% advantage over startups due to auto PLI'

The Indian automobile sector has long been dominated by legacy manufacturers like Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai. However, the electric vehicle (EV) space has opened the door to a new generation of startups challenging traditional industry structures through innovation, technology, and new mobility models. New Delhi-based Euler Motors has emerged as one of the leading players in electric three-wheeler and four-wheeler cargo segments. **Saurav Kumar**, Founder and CEO of Euler Motors, says startups would play an increasingly important role in deepening EV penetration in the country. In an interview with *DH*'s **Gyanendra Keshri**, Kumar delves on the impact of the auto PLI scheme on startups, challenges due to the West Asia conflict, and the company's expansion plans. *Edited excerpts:*

You recently spoke about the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme creating a disadvantage for startups. Why do you believe that the policy needs a relook?

The government has done excellent work in pushing the EV ecosystem forward. Whether it is GST rationalisation, the FAME policy (Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India), or battery standardisation, these interventions have helped the industry significantly. However, when we look at the auto PLI scheme today, startups like us find ourselves at a disadvantage. We are competing in the same markets, selling to the same customers and financiers, but some players get a cost advantage of roughly 13-15% because of PLI benefits, while startups do not. This distorts competition in the market where startups are driving innovation. Policy should be to support innovation and startups.

What specifically prevents startups like Euler Motors from benefitting from the PLI scheme?

The original structure of the scheme required companies to meet very high thresholds in terms of group revenues and investment levels. Those numbers were extremely high for startups. Capital expenditure and revenue were the main criteria. As a result, most startups were excluded. Also, the window was not reopened later. Our view is that if a revised policy or an updated scheme comes, companies like Euler Motors should also be considered.

We have invested more than Rs 1,500 crore over the last eight years, employ over 2,000 people directly, and have built strong products in performance, efficiency and fast-charging. In several ways, we have been torchbearers in the segment. So, I believe that the policy framework now needs an update to recognise companies that have demonstrated serious commitment and execution, irrespective of legacy scale.

Saurav Kumar

Do you see any impact on EV demand because of rising fuel prices and geopolitical uncertainty?

It is still early to comment conclusively. March was very strong for us, though it is generally higher because of year-end institutional purchases and accounting-related benefits. April has stabilised at around February levels. From a customer sentiment perspective, if diesel, petrol or CNG prices continue to rise, EV adoption should accelerate further. Vehicle ownership is ultimately a 10-year economic decision, and customers evaluate long-term operating costs.

EV penetration remains low across segments. How is it evolving in the cargo category?

The three-wheeler passenger segment has seen good electrification, around 30%. In cargo three-wheelers, penetration is roughly 20-25% of new sales. Four-wheelers are still at a very early stage. Last year, electrification in that segment was around 1%; now it has reached about 3.5%. Out of roughly 2,000 electric four-wheelers sold monthly in the segment, we are currently contributing around 500 vehicles. That gives us a market share of about 25%.

What are your expansion plans going forward?

We are setting up our third manufacturing unit at Palwal in Haryana. This will add another 1,000 four-wheelers per month in single-shift capacity. Currently, we have capacity for about 1,000 three-wheelers and 300-400 four-wheelers per month in a single shift. With the new facility, overall capacity will almost double. We have outlined close to Rs 400 crore in capital expenditure for FY27. This includes plant expansion, R&D investments, product upgrades across three-wheelers and four-wheelers, and localisation initiatives. Overall, Euler Motors would have invested close to Rs 1,500 crore by now, and this new investment will be in addition to that.

How is the West Asia conflict affecting the business?

We are seeing cost increases across the board — aluminium, lithium, semiconductor chips, memory components and even gases used in electronics manufacturing. Depending on the product category, the impact has been around 4-6%. We increased prices by about 1-1.5% in April, while absorbing some of the cost increases internally.

How much of your supply chain is localised?

In three-wheelers, around 90-95% is already localised, except for battery cells. In four-wheelers, localisation is still evolving as volumes grow. Battery cells continue to come largely from China, though South Korea is also an alternative source. Semiconductor supply chains are global, with components ultimately linked to Taiwan, China and South Korea.

Fixed income strategy amongst rising yields

Over the past 52 weeks, the Indian 10-year g-sec bond yield rose sharply by around 100 bps from 6.13% to 7.12%, and as on April 30, 2026, the 10-year g-sec bond yield traded at 7.02%. Despite no rate hikes by the RBI, why did the Indian bond yield spike up? Markets are always forward-looking and will price in the future outlook. The rise in the yield is primarily driven by 1. Heavy government borrowing due to fiscal stress causing supply pressure in the bond market; 2. Elevated crude oil prices due to global geopolitical tensions leading to fear of high inflation and widening of current account deficit; and 3. Weakening of the Indian rupee against the US dollar adding a second layer of import inflation.

Indian inflation inched up from 0.25% in October 2025, to 3.40% in March 2026. Although well-within the RBI's comfort band, one cannot deny the deep fear of rising inflation amid global uncertainties that are causing and can further cause volatility in the yields. Keeping all of the data in mind, we can conclude that the interest rate-cut cycle may have ended and yields may remain elevated and volatile. Currently, we expect the RBI to hold interest rates unchanged at least till 2026-end, but if oil prices remain high and if global central banks reverse the course and start hiking rates, India would likely follow (probably from 2027).

Fixed income investors should understand the basics that bond yields and bond prices are inversely related, which means in the current rising yield scenario, the demand for the prevailing lower interest-rated bonds will fall, which would pull down their prices, negatively impacting the returns at the mark-to-market level. Typically, in this process amongst the entire duration curve, long-duration bonds will be impacted the most, followed by medium to long-duration bonds, compared to shorter duration bonds. Over the past one year as on April 30, 2026, long-duration debt mutual funds generated negative returns in the range of -0.55% to -3.86%, compared to ultra-short, low and short-duration debt mutual funds, which generated positive returns in the range of 4.00% to 6.45%.

But aren't debt mutual funds safe? Every asset class and product will have risk. Since debt mutual funds are market-linked products and the underlying bonds in their portfolios are traded in the secondary market, there will be some degree of risk. Debt mutual funds carry three types of risks — interest rate volatility risk, credit risk and liquidity risk, thus choosing the right funds and understanding the interest rate cycle is very important.

RUSHABH DESAI
FOUNDER,
RUPEE WITH RUSHABH
INVESTMENT SERVICES

What should fixed income investors do in this scenario? In a rising yield scenario, the underlying bonds in debt mutual funds especially long-duration and medium to long-duration will be very sensitive to any volatility in the yields, thus the primary goal should be to minimise/avoid volatility risk. The best way to do this is by staying away from the longer end of the yield curve (medium to long and long-duration debt funds) and sticking with the shorter end of the yield curve (shorter duration debt funds). To further minimise/avoid volatility risk, investors should stay invested till the product's full maturity period and choose products based on one's time horizon.

Will investors need to compromise on the yields (yield to maturity) in shorter duration products? No, the overall yield curve from the shorter end to the longer end is more or less flat, which means that there is equal opportunity to earn across the yield curve.

Keeping the prevailing volatility risks in mind and from a better risk-adjusted returns point of view, ultra-short-duration, low-duration and short-duration debt mutual funds are better and safer bets. As on April 30, 2026, shorter duration (1-3 years) AAA & AA yields ranged 7.12% to 8.59%, compared to medium (5 years) and long (10 years) duration AAA & AA yields, which ranged 7.51% to 8.56%.

Investors can not only look at ultra-short, low, short-duration debt mutual funds, but also corporate bond debt mutual funds with maturity profiles not exceeding 4 years.

Last but not the least, along with all of the above, investors should stick to higher credit-rated products like Sov, AAA and AA+ to minimise/avoid credit risk and should diversify well-across different products and categories to minimise/avoid liquidity risk, as any investment made in fixed income products should be meant for capital preservation and steady appreciation.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Waaree Energies (ID: WAREEENER)	BUY	Upside +19%**	Last close ₹3,230 / Target: ₹3,850*
Radico Khaitan (ID: RADICO)	BUY	Upside +15%**	Last close ₹3,486 / Target: ₹4,000*
ICICI Lombard (ID: ICICIGI)	BUY	Upside +22%**	Last close ₹1,824 / Target: ₹2,230*
M&M (ID: M&M)	BUY	Upside +19%**	Last close ₹3,322 / Target: ₹3,963*
Cholamandalam (ID: CHOLAFIN)	BUY	Upside +14%**	Last close ₹1,670 / Target: ₹1,900*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Mcap of 4 of top-10 most-valued firms erodes by Rs 1L cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of four of the top-10 most-valued firms eroded by Rs 1 lakh crore last week, with State Bank of India taking the biggest hit, amid a range-bound trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 414.69 points or 0.53%, and the NSE Nifty went up by 178.6 points or 0.74%.

"Indian equity markets witnessed a volatile and range-bound week, with sentiment remaining cautious, despite intermittent recovery attempts. Early optimism driven by hopes of de-escalation in the Middle East and easing oil prices faded quickly as renewed tensions between the US and Iran resurfaced," said Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money.

While Bharti Airtel, SBI, TCS and L&T faced erosion from their valuation, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and LIC were the gainers from the pack. Together, they added Rs 46,685.21 crore in market valuation.

The valuation of SBI dropped by Rs 44,722.34 crore to Rs 9,41,107.62 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation declined by Rs 31,167.1 crore to Rs 11,18,055.03 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS diminished by Rs 28,456.26 crore to Rs 8,66,477.69 crore and that of Larsen & Toubro edged lower by Rs 5,371.84 crore to Rs 5,46,621.21 crore.

However, the market valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 15,425.09 crore to Rs 12,02,699.26 crore.

The mcap of Bajaj Finance surged by Rs 11,486.89 crore to Rs 5,94,610.02 crore.

HUL added Rs 8,763.97 crore taking its valuation to Rs 5,37,562.98 crore.

The mcap of RIL climbed Rs 6,563.28 crore to Rs 19,42,866.58 crore and that of LIC went up by Rs 2,751.37 crore to Rs 5,07,549.44 crore.

The market valuation of ICICI Bank edged higher by Rs 1,694.61 crore to Rs 9,06,675.39 crore.

RIL remained the most-valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, SBI, ICICI Bank, TCS, Bajaj Finance, L&T, HUL and LIC.

Poor equity returns drive Indians to foreign shores

Indians invested over $2.2 billion in overseas equities and debt till Feb

BLOOMBERG

Investors in India, long focused almost entirely on domestic markets, are increasingly starting to look outward.

A growing number are moving money abroad, seeking diversification after a stretch of weaker relative returns and sustained foreign outflows from local equities that have driven the rupee to record lows.

Indians invested more than $2.2 billion in overseas equities and debt in the 11 months through February, a 60% jump from the year-ago period, according to Reserve Bank of India data. Meanwhile, assets in global feeder funds run by local money managers hit a record $4 billion in March, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India show.

What's changing is how local investors are thinking about their portfolios. India is only about 3% of the global equity market, and its stocks don't always move in line with the rest of the world, making overseas investing a simple way to spread risk. A weaker rupee is making foreign assets attractive, as overseas returns get a currency boost, while easier access is attracting more people.

The shift is also being driven by the performance of local shares. The MSCI India Index has trailed its emerging markets counterpart by about nearly 50% over the past year, even after recovering from its March lows.

This is mainly due to slower earnings growth and limited exposure to themes like semiconductors. Meanwhile, markets such as Taiwan and South Korea have reached new highs.

"I wanted to be where the real innovation is happening," said Abhishek Dadhich, a 38-year-old tech employee in the Indian city of Pune, who has been investing in US stocks since 2023. Dadhich said his grasp of technology helped him more than triple his investments to over $300,000, exceeding his expectations.

Investors like him are driving growth in platforms that let Indians trade foreign stocks. Assets with Vested Finance Inc. topped $1 billion in April, about doubling from a year ago, founder Viram Shah said in an interview. The firm aims to reach $5 billion over the next three years, he said.

India allows individuals to remit up to $250,000 abroad, but the policy has been underutilised for investment purposes mainly due to the lack of convenient platforms for transactions.

That's changing. Clearer rules for global products from GIFT City — India's low-tax hub — and mobile apps that allow direct overseas investing are lowering barriers for retail investors.

Local asset managers are responding to this demand. Firms like DSP Asset Managers and PPFAS Asset Management have launched outbound funds from GIFT City for retail investors. The first was DSP's Global Equity Fund in June, which invests mainly in the US but also picks stocks from Taiwan, China, and Europe.

The attraction is about what's in short supply at home. Exposure to themes such as artificial intelligence, memory chips and data-centre infrastructure — a major driver of gains in markets like Korea and Taiwan — is still limited in India's $5 trillion equity market.

"Diversification benefits are real" as they give investors an exposure to a broad swath of tech stocks, said Sandipan Roy, chief investment officer at Motilal Oswal Private Wealth, which manages $21 billion. "Investors have grown wary of the continuing headwinds that have hit Indian markets."

Citigroup Inc. on Friday lowered its recommendation on India to underweight from neutral, citing geopolitical troubles and weak earnings trends. That's after similar cuts by brokers including JPMorgan & Chase Co, HSBC Holdings Plc and Nomura Holdings Inc.

To be sure, global investing still makes up a small share of overall flows, with most money staying in local stocks and bonds. Recurring investment plans by mutual funds alone have brought in about $3 billion every month recently, helping offset record foreign outflows from Indian equities.

Even so, overseas-focused funds from India have delivered strong returns. The HSBC Brazil Fund, run by the bank's local fund management arm, has gained nearly 70% in the past year, and the Axis Greater China Fund is up 65%.

While platforms like Interactive Brokers and Vested are popular, other players are starting to step in.

Zerodha Broking Ltd., which pioneered zero-brokerage stock trading in India, aims to roll out access to global stocks, CEO Nithin Kamath said on the firm's Youtube channel. State Street Corp. is set to bring out model portfolios of overseas stocks for local retail investors, a person familiar with the matter said earlier.

"I see 2026 as the year global investing goes mainstream," Vested's Shah said.

The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City in Ahmedabad. PIC: BLOOMBERG

MARKET OUTLOOK

Geopolitical developments to drive equities

Stock- and sector-specific action is likely to continue

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian equities are expected to remain highly sensitive to geopolitical developments in the near term, with markets likely to trade within a broader range. Stock- and sector-specific action is likely to continue, driven by evolving news flow and the final leg of the Q4FY26 earnings season. Next week's key macro events include India's April CPI inflation data, which will be closely tracked for implications on the RBI's rate outlook, alongside US April CPI and PPI prints that could materially shape Fed rate-cut expectations, bond yields and global risk sentiment.

Last week, equity markets witnessed a cautious but positive undertone, with benchmark indices consolidating while broader markets continued to outperform. The Nifty50 ended marginally higher by 0.3%, while the Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 gained 2.9% and 3.3%, respectively, reflecting improved risk appetite and strong stock-specific participation across broader markets. Sectorally, performance remained mixed. Nifty Auto (+4.7%) emerged as the top gainer, supported by strong monthly sales data, healthy demand momentum and optimism around easing supply-side pressures. Nifty Pharma (+2.6%) also outperformed, aided by defensive positioning and continued optimism around domestic growth opportunities.

Key events this week
- India's April CPI inflation
- WPI inflation
- US April CPI and PPI

The Q4FY26 earnings season has so far has been mostly in-line to better than expectations, though the trend remains selective rather than broad-based. With earnings of 154 MOFSL universe companies growing 17% YoY (Vs our estimate of 13% YoY). Growth was led by Metals (+53%), Auto (+22%), and BFSI (+18%) which together contributed 96% of the incremental earnings growth during the quarter. While the overall earnings trajectory remains supportive, management commentary on demand conditions, margin outlook, and FY27 growth visibility will be equally critical in shaping stock-specific outcomes in the days ahead.

Crude oil and currency trends will remain key market monitorables. Brent witnessed sharp swings last week, starting near $114 per barrel, briefly correcting to around $96 on optimism around potential US-Iran diplomatic progress, before recovering to approximately $104 as tensions resurfaced. For India, sustained crude volatility remains a key macro risk, given its impact on inflation, the current account and input costs. The rupee mirrored this volatility, rebounding to ₹94.17 after hitting a record low of 95.36 earlier in the week, aided by easing crude prices and improved risk sentiment.

Domestic macro indicators continue to provide a reassuring backdrop. GST collections surged to a record Rs 2.43 lakh crore in April, driven by strong import-linked revenues and broad-based economic activity. Auto sales reinforced this optimism, with passenger vehicle volumes rising ₹24.5% YoY while two-wheeler sales surged ₹38% YoY, pointing to sustained demand momentum well beyond seasonal inventory restocking.

Policy support has also turned more proactive. The Union Cabinet approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0, a Rs 18,100 crore government-backed guarantee scheme aimed at facilitating incremental credit flow for sectors impacted by West Asia-related disruptions, including a dedicated support window for aviation. Meanwhile, strategic policy momentum remains strong, with the government approving multiple firms under the critical mineral recycling scheme, signalling an accelerating push toward domestic supply-chain resilience and circular economy infrastructure.

Overall, while near-term volatility is likely to persist, supportive domestic macros, policy measures and stable earnings trends provide some cushion to sentiment. Going forward, pharma, defence and metals are expected to remain in focus. Pharma could benefit from its defensive nature and rupee tailwinds supporting export earnings, while defence continues to gain from strong order inflows and rising global military spending. Metals are also likely to stay supported by elevated LME prices and improving global demand trends.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, MOFSL)

DH REVIEW

OnePlus Nord CE6: A well-rounded mid-range phone

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Last week, OnePlus unveiled the new Nord CE6 series of mid-range phones in India.

It comes in two configurations — 8GB RAM + 128GB storage and 8GB RAM + 256GB storage — for Rs 29,999 and Rs 32,999, respectively.

Design, build quality and display

The Nord CE6 borrows design elements from the premium OnePlus 15 series. It features a flat frame around the display and a curved square-shaped dual-camera module with an LED flash in the top left corner. The rest of the back panel is plain, featuring only the OnePlus logo in the centre.

Besides pitch black colour, the OnePlus Nord CE6 is available in two shades — fresh blue and lunar pearl.

One of the big improvements over the predecessor is the build quality. the Nord CE6 comes with MIL-STD-810H military-grade certification and IP66/IP68/IP69/IP69K rating, meaning it can survive a dip in the swimming pool for close to 1.5 metres (approx. 5 feet) for up to 30 minutes. Also, it can withstand high-temperature, high-pressure water jets for a few seconds.

Furthermore, the display is protected by Crystal Guard Glass, and the company offers a free cover case.

On the front, it sports a 6.78-inch 1.5K full HD+ (2772x1272p) AMOLED-based display with a pixel density of 450 ppi (pixels per inch) and a 144Hz refresh rate. The bezels around the screen are uniform and thin, which is great for extended multimedia consumption.

It also features dual nano-SIM slots, an infrared sensor, a Type-C USB port, stereo speakers and an in-display optical fingerprint sensor. The latter works smoothly with a lower false rejection rate.

Spec Sheet

Display: 6.78-inch 1.5K AMOLED screen with 144Hz refresh rate

Robust build: IP68/IP69 water resistance and Crystal Guard Glass-protected display

Processor/Battery: Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 chipset, 8,000mAh battery with 80W fast-charging

Cameras & durability: 50MP dual rear camera setup

Configurations & Price:
8GB+128GB Storage Rs 29,999
8GB+256GB Storage Rs 32,999

Performance

Under the hood, the OnePlus Nord CE6 houses a 4nm class Qualcomm Snapdragon 7s Gen 4 octa-core processor, Adreno 810 GPU, Android 16-based OxygenOS 16, 8GB LPDDR4X RAM, and 128GB/256GB UFS 3.1 storage.

The company incorporated a dedicated Touch Reflex Chip, a 6-Axis Gyro and an X-Axis Motor. All three work together to offer a 3,200Hz instant touch sampling rate, controlled precision while aiming targets and realistic haptic feedback to deliver an immersive gaming experience, when playing battle royale titles such as BGMI.

For efficient heat dissipation, the phone includes a 5,000mm2 vapour chamber. In total, it has a 33,147mm2 cooling area with a graphite layer.

With a massive 8,000mAh battery capacity, the phone can easily last one-and-a-half days under normal usage. With a full charge, it can support video streaming on YouTube for more than 25 hours straight.

It comes with an 80W SuperVOOC fast wired charging capability, and can go from zero to 100% in a little over an hour. It also supports 27W reverse charging.

Photography

The device also sports a dual-camera module: a main 50MP rear camera (with a 1/2.88-inch OmniVision OV50D40 CMOS sensor, f/1.8 aperture, 0.61 µm pixel size, OIS: Optical Image Stabilisation) and a 2MP (f/2.4, 1.75 µm pixel size) monochrome camera with an LED flash on the back.

The Nord CE6 takes pretty good photos in daylight conditions. At night, the picture quality is decent with less noise. It supports digital zoom up to 10X. However, the images lose sharpness beyond 5X zoom.

It supports several native GenAI photography tools, including AI Perfect Shot, AI Eraser, AI Reflection Eraser, AI Unblur, Text Scanner, and more

On the front, it houses a 32MP camera (with a 1/3.1-inch Galaxycore GC32E2 sensor, f/2.0), which captures pretty nice selfies in natural sunlight.

Also, it supports filters and tools to beautify the skin tone of the face to make it more photogenic. Both the front and back cameras can record up to 4K videos at 30 fps.

Final thoughts

For the price, the OnePlus Nord CE6 is a well-packaged phone. It comes with premium build quality, a very large battery, a reliable Qualcomm chipset for smooth performance, and a dual-camera which manages to capture decent-quality photos.

Iran warns countries siding with US over sanctions

Says such nations will face difficulties crossing the Strait

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran's army warned on Sunday that countries complying with US sanctions against the Islamic republic would face difficulties crossing the Strait of Hormuz.

Early this month the US government imposed new sanctions on Iranian interests and warned ships against paying authorities in Tehran to pass through the strait.

The United States and Bahrain have drafted a UN resolution, seen by AFP, calling on Iran to halt restrictions on shipping through the waterway, which has become a major flashpoint since the outbreak of war on February 28.

"Countries that comply with the United States by imposing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran will certainly face difficulties crossing the strait," army official Mohammad Akraminia told Iran's official IRNA news agency on Sunday.

"We have established a new legal and security system in the Strait of Hormuz. From now on, any vessel wishing to pass through it must coordinate with us," he added.

He said the system was "now in force" and would bring "economic, security and political gains".

On Saturday, Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Iranian parliament's national security commission, issued a similar warning in a post on X.

"We warn governments, including microstates like Bahrain, that siding with the US-backed resolution will bring severe consequences. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital lifeline; do not risk closing it on yourselves forever," he wrote.

Iran has allowed only a trickle of ships to pass through the waterway, a route that in peacetime accounts for a fifth of the world's oil and gas flows, along with other vital commodities.

Last month, Iranian deputy speaker of parliament Hamidreza Hajibabaei said Tehran had received its first revenue from the tolls it imposed on the strait.

Tehran warns against Hormuz deployment

The Deputy Foreign Minister stated on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz is not the common property of extra-regional powers, asserting that the presence of French and British warships, or any other country, for potential accompaniment of the US in this strait will be met with a decisive and immediate response.

All passengers on hantavirus-hit ship 'high-risk' contacts: EU health agency

Persons without symptoms will be repatriated for self-quarantine

REUTERS

All passengers on the cruise ship hit by a deadly hantavirus outbreak are considered high-risk contacts as a precautionary measure, Europe's public health agency said ahead of the ship's expected anchoring on Sunday off the Spanish island of Tenerife.

Passengers without symptoms will be repatriated for self-quarantine via specially arranged transport, not regular commercial flights, by their respective countries, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said on Saturday as part of its rapid scientific advice. Countries were preparing to evacuate their citizens from the MV Hondius around 0630-0700 GMT.

Eight people have fallen ill, including three who died - a Dutch couple and a German national - the World Health Organization said on Friday. Six of the eight are confirmed to have contracted the virus, with another two suspected cases, the WHO has said.

Although at disembarkation, passengers will be considered high-risk, not all will necessarily be considered high-risk upon return to their home countries, the ECDC said.

Norovirus outbreak

More than 100 people have been sickened in a norovirus outbreak on a cruise ship operated by Princess Cruises, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on Thursday, reports NYT. Those sickened, who include 102 passengers and 13 crew members, have been isolated from uninfected travelers, the agency said.

Passengers wearing blue protective suits board a French govenment plane at the Tenerife Sur-Reina Sofia airport after being evacuated from the Dutch cruise ship on Sunday. AFP

2 Indians evacuated to Netherlands

Two Indian nationals aboard the Dutch vessel MV Hondius, which reported a hantavirus outbreak, were evacuated to the Netherlands and are healthy and asymptomatic, the Embassy of India in Spain said on Sunday, reports PTI. The ship with around 150 individuals, including two Indians, anchored in the Canary Islands.

'Battle of two ideologies': Pak's Army chief on conflict with India

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir on Sunday termed last year's conflict with India as a "battle between two ideologies." Addressing a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of 'Marka-e-Haq', the name given by Islamabad to the four-day conflict with India, Munir said, "Marka-e-Haq was not merely a traditional war fought between two countries or militaries, but in reality, it was a decisive marka (battle) between two ideologies."

China, US to hold trade talks in Seoul ahead of Trump-Xi summit

BEIJING, AFP

Senior Chinese and US officials will hold talks in South Korea in the coming days, Beijing's commerce ministry and Washington's treasury secretary said Sunday, ahead of an expected summit between leaders Xi Jinping and Donald Trump.

The Chinese commerce ministry said in a statement that Vice Premier He Lifeng, Beijing's top economic official, will attend "consultations on mutual economic and trade issues" in South Korea on Tuesday and Wednesday.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a post on X: "On Wednesday, I will stop in Seoul for a discussion with Vice Premier He Lifeng of China, before continuing on to Beijing for the Leaders' Summit between President Trump and President Xi."

Trump is set to visit China for a high-stakes summit with Xi, with the leaders of the world's top two economies expected to focus on easing tensions over trade and Taiwan, with the war in the Middle East looming in the background.

While Washington and Beijing slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's exports a year ago, Trump and Xi agreed on a year-long trade truce at their October meeting in South Korea.

He and Bessent have been the chief negotiators for China and the United States on all trade and economic issues.

The talks are likely to put the finishing touches on any announcements to be made during the Trump-Xi summit.

Bessent said he would have prior talks in Tokyo on Tuesday with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama, along with other public and private sector representatives.

"Economic security is national security, and I look forward to a productive series of engagements as we work to advance President Trump's America First Economic Agenda," Bessent said.

Nepal's ex-PM calls for unity among all communist forces

KATHMANDU, PTI: Former Prime Minister and coordinator of Nepali Communist Party Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda," has underscored the need for unity among the communist forces in the country.

Speaking at the 26th Nirmal Lama Memorial Programme organised at the party's office in Kathmandu on Sunday, Prachanda said: "Voice has been raised from the grassroot level that all communists should join hands at this moment."

Ukraine, Russia truce strained; attacks reported

REUTERS

A US-mediated ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine appeared under serious strain on Sunday, with both sides trading blame for weekend attacks.

The three-day pause, announced on Friday by President Donald Trump, is part of a broader US-led push for peace that has so far failed to end the more than four-year-old war despite months of shuttle diplomacy.

Three people were killed in Russian drone strikes on areas near the front line, and more than 200 battlefield clashes had taken place since early Saturday, Ukrainian officials reported on Sunday.

They held off explicitly accusing Russia of violating the U.S.-brokered deal, which also included a swap of 1,000 prisoners of war from each side. It was unclear when the exchange would take place.

On Sunday, Russia's Defence Ministry accused Ukraine of flouting the ceasefire, saying it had downed 57 Ukrainian drones over the past day and "responded in kind" on the battlefield.

Earlier this week, Russia and Ukraine had each announced separate ceasefires - starting on Friday and Wednesday respectively - but quickly accused one another of breaking them.

Dead and injured in Ukraine

One person each in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Kherson regions were killed in Russian drone attacks, regional governors and police said in separate reports on Sunday.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, governor Oleh Syniehubov said eight people, including two children, were wounded in drone strikes on the regional capital and nearby settlements.

Seven people, including a child, were also wounded in the Kherson region in drone or artillery attacks since early Saturday, regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on Sunday. The State Emergencies Service said Russian forces attacked one of its rescue vehicles in the Dnipropetrovsk region with a drone, wounding a 23-year-old driver.

Kyiv's air force said Russia had launched 27 long-range drones at Ukraine overnight - a lower number than usual - but that air defences had downed all of them.

Ukraine's General Staff said on Sunday afternoon that nearly 210 clashes had taken place along the sprawling, 1,200-km front line since early Saturday.

Reuters could not immediately verify the battlefield reports.

Stalled Diplomacy

Russian forces are pressing an offensive to capture the rest of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, which Moscow has demanded Kyiv cede before it considers ending its war.

U.S.-backed peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow have stalled over the matter, as well as over control of the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant - Europe's largest.

Russian officials had sent mixed signals on Saturday, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying peace in Ukraine was a "very long way" away but President Vladimir Putin suggesting the war was "coming to an end".

Vladimir Putin

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೈತಲುಇ/ತರಬೇತಿ/ತ-1/ವಿವ-04/2025-26

NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE ADMISSIONS IN GOVT. AND GRANT-IN-AID (GIA) ITIs FOR AUG-2026 SESSION

- Applications are invited Online from eligible candidates for Aug-2026 Session in **270 Government and 192 Grant in AID ITIs** for NCVT Affiliated Trades based on Merit cum Reservation as Mentioned in the Website: **www.cite.karnataka.gov.in**
- Candidates can directly fill the Applications Online through the Department Website: **www.cite.karnataka.gov.in.** It can also be done from the nearest Government / Grant in AID ITIs during office hours or Public Cyber Centers.
- Training will be given in various 1 year and 2 years Trades Affiliated under NCVT.
- Candidates to retain their Mobile & e-Mail IDs until the Course completion & AITT Examination as provided in the application. No changes shall be possible & relevant AITT Examination information will be shared with the registered Mobile & e-Mail ID only.
- Candidates should possess 10th Standard Certificate from Recognized Examination Board i.e from S.S.L.C Board or Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE).
- 8th pass / 10th failed candidates are also eligible for trades like Wood Work Technician, Welder, Sheet Metal worker, Sewing Technology, Plumber, Wireman, Dress Making etc.
- Applications can be submitted through online **from 27-04-2026 to 15-05-2026.**
- **This advertisement is given only to provide Admission in 270 Govt. & 192 Grant in AID ITIs.**

Note: Candidates are hereby informed to take admissions only after getting confirmation that both ITIs & Trades are Affiliated by DGT, New Delhi. For more information please contact nearest Govt. ITIs / Department Website: **https://itiemp.karnataka.gov.in**

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Nobel laureate transferred to Tehran hospital

BEIRUT, AP: Nobel Peace laureate and activist Narges Mohammadi has been transferred to a Tehran hospital more than a week after collapsing in prison.

The foundation says her transfer comes after days of pleading by her family and others. It says she has been granted a prison sentence suspension on bail. Mohammadi had been imprisoned since December.

Bangladesh seeks friendly ties with India, raises concern over killings at border

DHAKA, PTI

A senior adviser of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday said that Dhaka wants "friendly relations" with New Delhi as he voiced concern over the killing of two Bangladeshi nationals along the border with India last week.

Two suspected Bangladeshi smugglers were shot dead by Border Security Force in Tripura's Sepahijala district on Friday night, and the bodies were handed over to their relatives through Kamalasagar BOP in the presence of BSF and Border Guards Bangladesh officials.

"We want friendly relations, but good ties cannot be maintained if the border is repeatedly turned bloody," PM's political adviser Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said on Sunday.

Rizvi mentioned the killing of two suspected smugglers during his address at the national convention of diploma engineers.

"Even yesterday, two people were shot dead at the Brahmanbaria border," he added.

Rizvi, also ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) senior joint secretary general, said that the people of India too did not want to see such a phenomenon.

In reference to recent state elections in India, the BNP leader said it was "entirely an internal matter" for the Indian people to decide.

Car bomb attack on checkpoint kills at least 15 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, AFP

Militants detonated a car bomb at a checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan and opened fire on police, killing at least 15 and wounding three, officials said on Sunday.

"Last night in the Fateh Khel area of Bannu, a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a police checkpoint, after which multiple militants entered the post," Bannu police official Muhammad Sajjad Khan told AFP.

He said that 15 officers were confirmed dead, the latest attack in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a wave of militancy that has strained ties between Islamabad and Kabul.

Gunmen stormed the police checkpost after the car blast, opening fire, according to officials who said they also used small drones in the attack.

"During the assault, the militants used quadcopters along with heavy weaponry," a senior administrative official in Bannu told AFP on condition of anonymity.

100 militants involved

He said more than 100 militants took part in the attack.

"In addition, while retreating, the attackers took police personnel and weapons from the station with them," he added.

Bannu has been gripped in recent years by militant activity that has grown across Pakistan's border regions.

The Taliban government in Kabul denies Pakistan's accusations that Afghan territory is a safe harbour for militants, but the frosty relationship has spiralled into deadly armed conflict, including Pakistani airstrikes on cities in Afghanistan in recent months.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi condemned the "terrorist attack" and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives. His office said he has directed the authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured.

People carry the body of a victim at the damaged police checkpost following a car bombing attack by militants in the Fateh Khel area of Pakistan's Bannu on Sunday. AFP

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Peru's presidential candidate for the Fuerza Popular party, Keiko Fujimori, smiles during a campaign rally as part of Mother's Day celebrations in Lima. AFP

Number of small boat migrants to Britain tops 2,00,000

More than 200,000 migrants have arrived on UK shores in small boats since records began in 2018, latest government statistics showed, reports AFP from London.

The tally comes as the anti-immigration party Reform UK surged Thursday in local elections dominated by national issues including immigration.

Home Office figures published on Saturday showed 70 people arrived in one boat on Friday.

The northern French coast is the main point of departure for migrants hoping to reach Britain, usually risking the journey in flimsy, overcrowded boats.

Friday's crossing pushed the total number of arrivals since current data began to 200,013.

The figure is calculated using the government's official statistics for 2018 to 2025 and provisional figures recorded so far this year.

Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer is increasingly under pressure over the issue.

His interior minister Shabana Mahmood has proposed cutting back on protections for refugees and ending automatic benefits for asylum seekers.

4 dead in Colombia mine blast

Four miners were found dead after an explosion at an underground coal mine in central Colombia, where a similar accident left nine dead a week ago, a senior official said on Sunday, reports AFP from Bogotá.

The explosion took place Saturday at the Las Quintas mine in Pueblo Viejo, a village in Cucunuba municipality, said Jorge Emilio Rey, the governor of Cundinamarca department.

"The four miners who were trapped in the #LasQuintas mine" were found dead, Rey said on social media.

The Cundinamarca risk management office said earlier it was "responding to the emergency."

Local media reported that the workers were believed to be about 500 meters (1,650 feet) underground.

The cause of the blast was not immediately clear, but mining accidents are common in this region of Colombia, often due to poor ventilation at illegal or artisanal operations that operate without permits and fail to meet safety standards.

France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) shakes hands with Kenya's President William Ruto during the signing of bilateral agreements at State House ahead of the Africa Forward: Africa- France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth Summit in Nairobi on Sunday. AFP

B'desh HC rejects monk's bail plea

Bangladesh's High Court on Sunday rejected a bail petition of Hindu monk Brahmachari Chinmoy Krishna Das since he is being tried in a lower court in connection with a lawyer's murder in 2024, reports PTI from Dhaka.

Das, a spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25, 2024 for alleged sedition.

He was jailed after he was denied bail by a court in the southeastern port city of Chattogram, which prompted his followers to protest in Dhaka and other places the next day. The protest turned violent in Chattogram, where the lawyer, a junior government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif, was killed.

"The High Court bench rejected our bail petition as recording of witnesses testimony is underway in the trial (lower) court in Chattogram," Das' lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya told reporters.

Bhattacharya said the two-judge bench of Justice KM Zahid Sarwar and Justice Sheikh Abu Taher, however, set Monday for hearing bail petitions on four other cases against Das.

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"Felt there was enough on the board. Fielding standards have to be up there, too many dropped catches but Urvil played a fantastic and unbelievable knock, like Inglis did for us.

RISHABH PANT, LSG CAPTAIN

RCB seal Mumbai's early exit

Krunal, Bhuvneshwar shine in thrilling last-ball victory

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
RAIPUR, DHNS

While both teams have looked polished and equal in terms of strength on paper, there has been a substantial gulf in quality between the Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians this season.

At the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here on Sunday, the game did hang in the balance until the last ball, but ultimately, it was RCB, who were returning to the venue after 10 years, bouncing back in style with a nervy two-wicket win to go to the top of the table with 14 points.

The Challengers relished a much-needed victory after two consecutive defeats while sealing Mumbai and Lucknow Super Giants' fate for the season with an early exit.

The night, however, belonged to the wily Bhuvneshwar Kumar (4/23), who made Mumbai dance to his tunes with a sensational four-wicket haul.

Chasing a modest 167 for victory, Bengaluru's high-profile top-order, studded with serious quality, failed to apply themselves on a black soil surface which had a few cracks, enough to play in the mind of the batters.

RCB suffered a top-order malfunction, losing three wickets in 5.1 overs to open the game wide for MI to sneak in.

Virat Kohli (0), who became the joint-most-capped player in IPL history, alongside MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma with 278 appearances, had an outing to forget, enduring a second straight duck.

Kohli, who looked to play through the line of the ball that was shaping away, only managed to hit it to Raj Bawa (1/39) at mid-off. The Challengers were suddenly in a spot of bother when Devdutt Padikkal (12), another of their in-form batters, edged it to Ryan Rickelton behind the sticks.

Rajat Patidar (8) soon followed when he tried to pull Corbin Bosch (4/26) but only managed to top-edge it to Rickelton.

With RCB under the pump and feeling the heat, they handed Krunal Pandya (73) a batting promotion. The southpaw, alongside Jacob Bethell (26), stitched a 55-run partnership to ensure the Challengers did not bog down under pressure.

Bethell, on the other hand, who looked a distant shadow of his dominating self, got some time in the middle with his 27-ball stay.

After a tough first six overs, RCB fought back brilliantly in the next six, scoring 51 runs without losing a wicket.

The pendulum swung again when Bethell flicked it straight to Tilak Varma in the first ball of the 13th over to bring Mumbai back into the game.

Just when the pressure started to creep again, Krunal, who was joined by Jitesh Sharma, did not hold back and continued to play positively, reaching his fifty in 32 balls.

Bosch then picked up Jitesh Sharma (12) and Tim David (0) off successive deliveries in the 16th over. Krunal took on Allah Ghazanfar in the 18th over, smashing three sixes but the spinner had the last laugh.

RCB eventually held their nerve and crossed the line, needing 15 off the last over.

Earlier, Bhuvneshwar dismissed the destructive Rickelton (2) in the first over when the Indian veteran had the South African caught at mid-off.

Rohit Sharma (22) brought out his pull shots and took down Josh Hazlewood (1/33) in his first over, which included two sixes.

However, one became two quickly as Bhuvneshwar, riding a nostalgia wave this season, got rid of Rohit. More trouble came Mumbai's way as they lost Suryakumar Yadav (0) on the very first ball after he edged a delivery that hit the length and moved away, straight to Kohli.

While Mumbai were under the pump, it was Tilak (57) and Naman Dhir (47), who saved MI's batting blushes.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (right) and Rasikh Dar (centre) celebrate the thrilling last-ball win over Mumbai Indians at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur on Sunday. AFP

SCORE BOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS: Ryan Rickelton c Patidar b Bhuvneshwar 2 (4b), Rohit Sharma c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 22 (10b, 2x4, 2x6), Naman Dhir b Rasikh 47 (32b, 5x4, 2x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 0 (1b), Tilak Varma b Bhuvneshwar 57 (42b, 3x4, 2x6), Will Jacks c Bethell b Shephard 10 (10b, 1x4), Raj Bawa c Patidar b Hazlewood 16 (14b, 1x4), Corbin Bosch (not out) 5 (5b), Deepak Chahar (not out) 1 (2b). Extras (LB-3, W-3) 6. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 20 overs) 166.**

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-28, 3-28, 4-110, 5-132, 6-155, 7-161.

Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-23-4, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-33-1, Rasikh Dar 4-0-42-1, Romario Shephard 3-0-18-1, Krunal Pandya 3-0-26-0, Suyash Sharma 2-0-21-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU: Jacob Bethell c Tilak b Bosch 26 (27b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Bawa b Chahar 0 (1b), Devdutt Padikkal c Rickelton b Chahar 12 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Rajat Patidar c Rickelton b Bosch 8 (8b, 1x4), Krunal Pandya c Tilak b Ghazanfar 73 (46b, 4x4 5x6), Jitesh Sharma c Dhir b Bosch 18 (12b, 1x4, 2x6), Tim David c Rickelton b Bosch 0 (1b), Romario Shepherd c Tilak b Bawa 4 (11b), Rasikh Salam (not out) 3 (2b), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 7 (2b). Extras (W-11, LB-3, NB-1) 15. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 167.**

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-24, 3-39, 4-94, 5-131, 6-131, 7-149, 8-157.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-33-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-20-0, Corbin Bosch 4-1-26-4, Will Jacks 2-0-13-0, AM Ghazanfar 3-0-32-1, Raj Bawa 3-0-39-1.

Result: RCB won by two wickets

PoM: Bhuvneshwar Kumar

RCB's next match: vs KKR (May 13, Raipur).

Neeru Dhanda (left) and Vivaan Kapoor pose with their spoils.

Neeru, Vivaan win trap mixed team bronze

NEW DELHI, PTI: Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor signed off with a bronze medal in the trap mixed team event as India ended its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun on a positive note in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Sunday.

The medal was the first ISSF World Cup podium finish for Neeru and Vivaan in the Olympic event and India's second since mixed team trap was added to the Olympic programme last year.

Neeru and Vivaan shot 24 out of the first 30 targets in the final and despite matching the top Italian pair of Silvana Stanco and Mauro De Filippis, they had to miss out on a better medal, having finished second to the silver-winning Italians in qualification.

Chinese Taipei's Kun-Pi Yang and Wan-Yu Liu won a second World Cup gold with a world record score of 36 in the final.

Vivaan and Neeru had shot 143 in qualification, finishing just two behind Silvana, a Paris Olympic silver medallist, and Mauro, a former world champion in the event.

Both shot perfect third rounds of 25 each to confirm their final spots with Vivaan missing two out of his 75 targets.

Team-mates Ahvar Rizvi and Pragati Dubey shot 130 to finish 23rd in the 31-team competition.

After the first 10 targets in the decider, Kun and Wan led the field with a perfect score. Neeru missed her third, to put India in second after Vivaan shot down all five of his targets to extend his qualification form.

PCB, BCB join hands to push for balanced FTP

KARACHI, PTI: The Pakistan Cricket Board and Bangladesh Cricket Board have agreed to back each other at Asian and international cricket forums while seeking greater balance in the Future Tours Programme (FTP) for the 2028-31 cycle.

A well-informed source close to the PCB said chairman Mohsin Naqvi returned from a two-day visit to Dhaka with positive assurances after discussions with Bangladesh officials, including interim cricket head Tamim Iqbal.

The source added that Naqvi had discusssed in detail in meetings that there was a need to first reject any move to create a two-tier system in the World Test Championship and secondly to have more balance in the next edition of the championship and also in distribution of shares from ICC events in the new financial cycle after 2027.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Tottenham vs Leeds (**12:30 am, Tuesday**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

La Liga: Rayo Vallecano vs Girona FC (**12:30 am, Tuesday**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: East Bengal FC vs Punjab FC (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

IFL: Aizawl FC vs Real Kashmir FC (**7:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

TENNIS

ATP Masters: Rome Masters Round of 16 (**5:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Scorching Urvil spurs Super Kings

Youngster's 23-ball 65 powers 5-time champs to 5-wicket win over LSG

CHENNAI, PTI

The swashbuckling Urvil Patel equalled the record for the fastest fifty in IPL history as Chennai Super Kings edged out Lucknow Super Kings by five wickets to keep their playoff hopes alive here on Sunday.

Batting first, Josh Inglis played a sensational 85-run knock before CSK bowlers rallied to stop LSG at 203 for eight.

With the defeat, their eighth in 11 matches, LSG's playoff hopes went up in smoke.

A lot of credit for the CSK comeback must go to Jamie Overton (3/36), who took the big wickets of Inglis and Rishabh Pant in a space of three balls, before Shahbaz Ahmed chipped in with an useful 43 off 25 balls.

Thanks to Urvil's exploits and some sensible batting by Shivam Dube (15 not out off 7 balls) and Prashant Veer (17 not out off 12 balls), CSK chased down the target of 204 with four balls remaining.

Dube sealed the issue for CSK with two successive sixes.

Urvil, who blazed away to 65 in 23 balls with the help of eight sixes and two fours, reached his half-century in 13 balls to join current record holder Yashasvi Jaiswal. Sent in at No. 3, Urvil hammered three consecutive sixes off Avesh and went on to clobber 25 runs off Rathi, hitting three more maximums and a four. He also went after India pacer Shami, blasting the bowler over his head for another huge hit over mid-wicket before completing his fifty with a single to the off-side.

After reaching his half-century, Urvil looked skyward and took out a piece of paper from his pocket with the line "This is for you Papa" written on it, turning a record-equalling feat into a deeply personal tribute for his father Mukesh Patel, who played a key role in developing him into a professional cricketer.

Chennai Super Kings' Urvil Patel pays tribute to his father Mukesh Patel after smashing a record-equalling half-century against Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday. AFP

MAN ON FIRE

- Urvil Patel equalled Yashasvi Jaiswal's record for the fastest IPL fifty by an Indian, reaching the landmark in just 13 balls.
- The 27-year-old Urvil smashed eight sixes and two fours in his whirlwind knock of 65 from 23 balls.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Josh Inglis c Samson b Overton 85, Mitchell Marsh c Brevis b Kamboj 10, Nicholas Pooran c sub b Noor 1, Rishabh Pant b Overton 15, Aiden Markram (run out) 6, Akshat Raghuwanshi c Urvil b Overton 18, Shahbaz Ahmed (not out) 43, Himmat Singh b Kamboj 17, Mohammed Shami (run out) 0, Avesh Khan (not out) 0. Extras (LB-2, NB-1, W-5) 8. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 203.**

Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-92, 3-112, 4-115, 5-130, 6-147, 7-197, 8-197.

Bowling: Akeal Hosein 4-0-49-0, Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-45-0, Anshul Kamboj 4-0-47-2, Noor Ahmad 4-0-24-1, Jamie Overton 4-0-36-3.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson b Rathi 28, Ruturaj Gaikwad b Shahbaz 42, Urvil Patel c Avesh b Shahbaz 65, Kartik Sharma c Raghuwanshi b Avesh 20, Dewald Brevis b Rathi 10, Shivam Dube (not out) 15, Prashant Veer (not out) 17. Extras (LB-2, W-9) 11. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 19.2 overs) 208.**

Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-126, 3-149, 4-169, 5-169.

Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-37-0, Prince Yadav 4-0-36-0, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-45-2, Avesh Khan 4-0-44-1, Shahbaz Ahmed 3-0-30-2, Aiden Markram 0.2-0-14-0.

Result: CSK won by 5 wkts.

PoM: Urvil Patel

Faltering Punjab seek course correction

DHARAMSALA, PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Punjab Kings would be aiming to arrest their surprising slide towards the business end of the Indian Premier League when they host an out-of-sorts Delhi Capitals in the picturesque environment of Dharamsala here on Monday.

Finishing the home leg with three games at the HPCA Stadium till May 17, Punjab Kings would be eyeing an improvement in all departments following defeats in their last three league games.

There is no need to press the panic button for a team that was the only unbeaten side in the competition not so long ago but it really needs to get its basics right for the remainder of the league stage.

PBKS' catching was abysmal in Hyderabad, the pacers led by Arshdeep Singh have been leaking runs, while the runs that were flowing from the opening duo of Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh have dried up.

Shreyas Iyer has led Punjab Kings from the front and with at least couple of wins still needed to make the playoffs, he wants his players to stick to the methods that brought them success in the first half of the tournament.

Momentum is key in a fickle format like the T20s and Punjab Kings would want that on their side as early as the next game.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers	11	7	4	0	14	1.103
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	7	4	0	14	0.737
Gujarat Titans	11	7	3	0	14	0.228
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.571
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	-0.169
Delhi Capitals	11	4	7	1	8	-1.154
Mumbai Indians	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

Indian lifters eye strong show

GANDHINAGAR, PTI

Indian weightlifters will look to capitalise on home support and build momentum ahead of a packed year featuring the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games when the Asian Championships begin here on Monday.

With the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games looming on the horizon, the tournament assumes added significance for athletes chasing qualification points and momentum at the international level. India will field a sizeable contingent, banking on a mix of established performers and emerging names to make an impression against a strong Asian field.

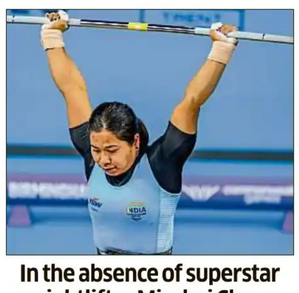
The biggest crowd-puller, Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, will miss the event as she continues to recover from a shoulder niggle. Her absence leaves the spotlight on experienced campaigners such as Commonwealth medallists Bindyarani Devi, Harjinder Kaur and Lovepreet Singh.

India has fielded a 16-member team with eight participants each in the men's and women's category, while an additional four athletes have earned participation slots as hosts. The squad also includes a number of rising talents, with Bedabrat Bharali and Gyaneshwari Yadav regarded among the promising youngsters to watch during the week-long event.

In the last edition, India returned empty-handed with only two lifters taking part in the event in China in 2025.

Originally scheduled for April, the championships were postponed because of tensions in western Asia.

The tournament will feature a stacked field of over 170 athletes from 30 countries, including guest nations Australia and New Zealand. The competition will also feature several Olympic and world champions. China's Liu Huanhua, the reigning Olympic and world champion in the 102kg category, headlines the field.



In the absence of superstar weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, S Bindyarani Devi (in pic) will lead India's charge in the Asian Championships.
PTI FILE PHOTO

VAR comes to Arsenal's rescue

LONDON, AFP

Arsenal moved closer to the Premier League title in controversial fashion as a hugely contentious decision to disallow Callum Wilson's stoppage-time goal handed the leaders a vital 1-0 win against West Ham on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side struggled to break down West Ham in a tense derby at the London Stadium before Leandro Trossard struck with a deflected effort seven minutes from full-time.

But Arsenal's title rivals Manchester City will be furious that West Ham were denied a last-gasp equaliser for Pablo's foul on Gunners keeper David Raya, whose fumble was fired home by Wilson.

Pablo had his arm across Raya's chest in the incident but the contact was minimal, with West Ham also claiming fouls by Declan Rice and Trossard at the same moment.

In what could be the defining image of the title race, referee Chris Kavanagh and the VAR officials took an age to disallow the goal, leading to jeers and boos from West Ham fans.

Arsenal are five points clear of second-placed City, whose 3-0 win against Brentford on Saturday had kept the pressure on the leaders.

Results: West Ham: 0 It to Arsenal: 1 (Trossard 83rd); Burnley: 2 (Anthony 8th, Flemming 58th) drew with Aston Villa: 2 (Barkley 42nd, Watkins 56th); Crystal Palace: 2 (Sarr 34th, Mateta 77th) drew with Everton: 2 (Tarkowski 6th, Beto 47th); Nottingham Forest: 1 (Anderson 88th) drew with Newcastle: 1 (Barnes 74th).

Arsenal's Leandro Trossard celebrates after scoring the winner against West Ham at the London Stadium on Sunday. REUTERS

Valencia win

Umar Sadiq's second-half goal helped Valencia win 1-0 at Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Sunday and climb into mid-table, while winger Nico Williams was taken off hurt.

Los Che are not safe yet but moved five points clear of the drop zone with three matches remaining.

Results: Athletic Bilbao: 0 It to Valencia: 1 (Sadiq 72nd); Real Mallorca: 1 (Muriqi 45+2nd) drew with Villarreal: 1 (Perez 31st P).

Niemann wins; Gukesh ends sixth

WARSAW, PTI: World champion D Gukesh had to be content with a sixth-place finish while Hans Moke Niemann of the United States kept his nerves towards the end to win the Super rapid and blitz, a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

Gukesh ended his stint with 17 points out of a possible 36 that included 9 rrapid and 18 blitz games. With each rapid game win worth two and blitz one point, Gukesh scored nine points in rapid and eight points in blitz.

Things could have been worse but Gukesh won the last round against Duda Jan-Kryzstztof of Poland to finish around the middle bracket.

It may be recalled that Gukesh had withdrawn from the main events of GCT and will only be playing the rapids and blitz this year. The youngest ever world champion is also slated to play his match against Javokhir Sindarov of United States later this year apart from the Norway chess tournament.

Gukesh's three victories on the last day came against Wesley So of United States, Niemann and Duda while most notable of his four losses was against Sindarov who won the personal battle against the Indian by 2-1 margin out of the three games played between them here.

Final standings: Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 22.5), 1; Fabiano Caruana (USA, 22), 2; Wesley So (USA, 21), 3; Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 18), 4; Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 17.5), 5; D Gukesh (Ind, 17), 6.

Poovamma, Abhinaya claim top spots

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's elite 400m runner Poovamma MR clocked her season best (53.58 seconds) to top the women's event at the Indian Athletics Series 6 in Chennai on Sunday.

The 35-year-old, representing ONGC, finished ahead of her state-mate Vijayakumari GK who clocked 53.38 secs to occupy the third position. The second position went to Police's Ansa Babu (53.50).

The men's 110m hurdles saw a continued rise of K'taka athlete Krishik M who finished second in a photo finish with national record holder Tejas Shirse. Krishik made a massive improvement on his previous best (13.72) to a new personal best of 13.44 to finish right behind Tejas (13.43). While Krishik clocked the third fastest timing by an Indian, the record stands at 13.41.

Meanwhile another state athlete Abhinaya Shetty (JSW) made the most out of the depleted field to win the women's high jump event at 1.71 metre. The same was true for javelin thrower Karishma Sanil (Reliance) as she hurled the javelin to 53.03m to take the top spot while her state-mate Ramyashree Jain finished third at 46.41.

Results: Winners and Karnataka only: Men: 100m: Pranav Gurav (Rel) 10.32s, 1. **100m H:** Tejas Shirse (Rel) 13.43, 1; Krishik M (Rel) 13.44, 2. **200m:** Rajesh Ramesh (NCOT) 21.23, 1; Abhin B Devadiga (Kar) 21.33, 2. **400m:** Jay Kumar (UP) 46.03, 1. **400m H:** Santhosh Kumar T (NCOT) 49.47, 1; Yashas P (Kar) 49.64, 2. **800m:** Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:47.23, 1. **1500m:** Anju (Har) 4:19.39, 1; Priyanka C (Kar) 4:23.10, 2. **5000m:** Abhishek Pal (Rai) 13:57.01, 1; Shivaji Madappago (Kar) 13:58.13, 2; Shailesh Kushwaha (Kar) 14:01.83, 3. **Long jump:** M Sreeshankar (Ker) 8.04m, 1. Javelin throw: Arshdeep Singh (Pun) 77.04. **Discus throw:** Nirbhay Singh (NCOP) 55.54, 1. Shot put: S Kumaran (TN) 17.66, 1; Prajwal Shetty (Kar) 15.70, 3. **Women: 100m:** Giridharani RK (TN) 11.51s, 1; **100m H:** Anjali C (JSW) 13.53, 1. **200m:** Nithya Gandhe (NCOT) 24.11, 1; Prakruthi Roopa Rao (Kar) 24.48, 3. **400m:** Poovamma MR (ONGC) 53.38, 1; Vijayakumar GK (53.58), 3. **400m H:** Anu Raghavan (Rel) 56.95, 1; Sinchal Kaveramma TR (NCOB) 58.31, 2. **5000m:** Aarti Pawara (Mah) 17:06.69, 1. **Javelin throw:** Karishma Sanil (Rel) 53.03m, 1; Ramyashree Jain (Kar) 46.41. **High jump:** Abhinaya Shetty (JSW) 1.71, 1. **Long jump:** Sherin A (JSW) 6.07, 1. **Triple jump:** I Ilango (TN) 13.52m, 1. **Discus throw:** Nidhi Rani (Har) 58.82, 1.

Poovamma MR

Aquastic wins feature

BENGALURU RESULTS

SS Attaollahi-trained Aquastic, ridden by Yash Narredu, won the Mother's Day Trophy the feature event of the races on Sunday.

1. The Royal Challenge Plate - 1500M: Makoto (Babu Krishna Kishore) Rajesh Kumar 1, Agape (Akshay Kumar) 2, Dr Colchester (Arul) 3, Double Scotch (Jagadeesh) 4. WB: 5, 5-1/2, 1-1/4. T: 1:34.87. Tote: Rs 25; 11, 10, 46 (p); Fc: Rs: 39; Q: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 133; Tri: Rs 1269 & 860; Exp: Rs 4008 & 890. TB: Narayana Gowda; Fav: Agape.

2. The Razeen Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Refined Aggression (Blazing Saddles, K Manoj Kumar and Manji Stud) P Trevor 1, Dr Ash (Rajesh Kumar) 2, Agrador (Antony Raj) 3, My Solitaire (Jagadeesh) 4. WB: 10-1/2, 4, 8-3/4. T: 1:25.44. Tote: Rs 13. 11, 15, 12 (p); Fc: Rs: 119 ; Q: Rs 113; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 47; Tri: Rs 136 & 29; Exp: Rs 1357 & 953. TB: P Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Refine Aggression.

3. The Agumbe Plate - 1200M: Senor Cherie (Cherie Sports Pvt Ltd) Antony Raj 1, True Punch (Suraj Narredu) 2, Felisa (Pavan) 3, La McQueen (Aleemuddin) 4. NR: Silicon Star. WB: 3-3/4, Shd. T: 1:13.47. Tote: Rs 32. 16, 17, 14 (p); Fc: Rs: 109; Q: Rs 52; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 47; Tri: Rs 244 & 105; Exp: Rs 4095 & 1504. TB: Faraz Arshad; Fav: Felisa.

4. The Mother's Day Trophy - 1500M: Aquastic (S Pathy) Yash Narredu 1, Sunshine (Suraj Narredu) 2, Maana (Antony Raj) 3, Storm Shadow (P Trevor) 4. WB: 3-1/2, 3/4, Lnk. T: 1:31.19. Tote: Rs 140. 23, 10, 15 (p); Fc: Rs: 310 ; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 463 & 229; Exp: Rs 2448 & 1648 . TB: SS Attaollahi; Fav: Sunshine.

5. The Capricorn Stud Plate - 1300M: Efficacy (Daulat Chhabria, Maloji B Bhosale A B Bloodstock) Shreyas Singh 1, Lux Aeterna (P Trevor) 2, Promiseofthefuture (Pavan) 3, Victoria Doresaani (A Rozario) 4. WB: 4-1/4, 3/4, 2. T: 1:18.90. Tote: Rs 23; 13, 10, 10 (p); Fc: Rs: 80; Q: Rs 44; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 118 & 45; Exp: Rs 497 & 386. TB: SS Attaollahi; Fav: Efficacy.

6. The Razeen Plate (Div I) 1400M: Prince Of Wales (Rapar's Galloping and Rajendran) Antony Raj 1, Glorious Strides (RN Darshan) 2, Valiant Stream (Akshay Kumar) 3, El Rey (P Trevor) 4. NR: Unforgettable Star. WB: Hd, 5, 9. T: 1:25.30. Tote: Rs 37; 11, 13, 11 (p); Fc: Rs: 316; Q: Rs 116; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 271 & 77; Exp: Rs 550 & 281. TB: P Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Valiant Stream.

Jackpot: Rs 10,049 & 946. **Mini Jackpot:** 8090. **I treble:** Rs 174. **II treble:** Rs 1861.

Yuvraj drops out of top 20

BARCELONA, PTI: Yuvraj Sandhu carded a round of even par 72 after being well placed around the turn in the third round at the Estrella Damm Catalunya Championship on the third day here.

With a total score of 4-under par (68-72-72) he is placed T-46.

ARCHERY WC STAGE 2

Deepika leads India to dramatic gold

Veteran pairs with Ankita, Kumkum to stun China in final

SHANGHAI, PTI

The Indian trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and teenager Kumkum Mohod held their nerve in a tense shoot-off to beat home favourites China and clinch the women's recurve team gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Sunday.

In a final marked by fluctuating fortunes, India edged out the home side 5-4 (28-26) in the shoot-off after the four-set regulation ended 4-4.

There was, however, heartbreak for Simranjeet Kaur who lost to World No. 1 and eventual champion Kang Chaeyoung of South Korea in straight sets in the semifinal, before going down to another Korean, Jang Minhee, in the playoff for the bronze medal.

India thus ended their campaign with two medals -- one gold and bronze that came through Sahil Jadhav in the men's individual compound section on Saturday.

Led by four-time Olympian Deepika, India were inconsistent and almost let it slip after taking the first set.

Trailing 2-4, India were on the verge of defeat but the relatively-inexperienced Chinese side comprising two 21-year-olds in Zhu Jingyi, Huang Yuwei and teenager Yu Qi failed to wrap it up in the fourth set.

Needing a nine in the final arrow, the 18-year-old Yu Qi slipped to 8-ring, giving Indians a lucky escape as the trio peaked well to win the ensuing shoot-off by two points.

The 17-year-old Kumkum, who made her World Cup debut in Puebla last month, shot a splendid 10, after Ankita started off with a 9, while Deepika calmed her nerves to seal the gold with a 9 in the final arrow of the shoot-off.

The victory was especially sweeter as India had earlier stunned record 10-time Olympic champions South Korea in the semifinals en route to their first World Cup women's team gold since 2021.

(From left) India's Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari and Kumkum Mohod are all smiles after winning the women's recurve team gold at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on Sunday. X

State shuttlers shine

Abhinav wins men's singles final as twins Pavan & Punith wear doubles' crown

BENGALURU, DHNS

Winners of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Junior (under-19) Ranking badminton tournament pose with their spoils at the Karnataka Badminton Association on Sunday. (From left) Abhinav Garg, Tanvi Patri, Baruni Parshwal, Diya Bheemaiah B, Deepak Raj Aditi, Punith S and Pavan S.

Fortune favoured most of the Karnataka shuttlers in the fray while deserting one of them on the final day of the Yonex-Sunrise All India Junior (under-19) Ranking tournament at the Karnataka Badminton Association courts here on Sunday.

In the men's final, state's Abhinav Garg started slow but held his nerve to eventually capture the title in a thrilling manner against Telangana's Gnana Dattu TT. The fourth seed lost the first game 8-21 but the local boy fought his way to win the second 23-21. The third once again went to the wire before Abhinav held fort against a surging Gnana to capture the decider 22-20.

The top-seeded Shaina Manimuthu of Karnataka, however, had to endure heartbreak as Odisha's Tanvi Patri proved too strong. Tanvi raced away to a straight-game 21-17, 21-8 win to wear the crown.

It was joy for twins from Shivamogga -- Pavan S and Punith S -- as the duo scored a 21-19, 21-10 win over Assam's Aanayan Borah and Kerala's Bjorn Jaison to lift the men's doubles trophy.

In the corresponding women's doubles title clash, Karnataka's Diya Bheemaiah B, along with her Haryana partner Baruni Parshwal, downed Tamil Nadu's top-seeded pair of Anushkaa Jennifer AS and Dheeshitha Singha Gopinath Singh 21-10, 22-20 to occupy the top position on the podium.

And lastly, in the mixed doubles category, Punith and Deepak Raj Aditi gave the hosts their fourth title of the week-long tournament after posting a come-from-behind 17-21, 21-16, 21-17 win over Mizoram's Sainunmawia Sailo and Telangana's Rishita Pandey.

Results (finals, prefix denotes seedings): Under-19: Men: Singles: 4-Abhinav Garg (Kar) bt 14-Gnana Dattu TT (Tel) 8-21, 23-21, 22-20.
Doubles: 8-Pavan S/ Punith S (Kar) bt Aanayan Borah (Asm)/ Bjorn Jaison (Ker) 21-19, 21-10.
Women: Singles: Tanvi Patri (Ori) bt 1-Shaina Manimuthu (Kar) 21-17, 21-8.
Doubles: Diya Bheemaiah B (Kar)/ Baruni Parshwal (Har) bt 1-Anushkaa Jennifer AS/ Dheeshitha Singha Gopinath Singh (TN) 21-10, 22-20.
Mixed doubles: 8-Punith S/ Deepak Raj Aditi (Kar) bt Sainunmawia Sailo (Miz)/ Rishita Pandey (Tel) 17-21, 21-16, 21-17.

Karan leads Indian challenge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karan Singh

Following an action-packed first few months this year, the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium is all set to witness more tennis action with back-to-back ATP Challengers lined-up in the next two weeks.

The first one that begins on Monday will see four main draw contests following the final qualifying matches in which three Indians seek wins to advance further.

Out of the 14 home players, who got on to the court for first round qualifiers on Sunday, only Parth Aggarwal, Adil Kalyanpur and Aditya Vishal Balsekar secured victories to enter the final qulifying round.

While USA's Keegan Smith (world No. 289) and Scotland's Hamish Stewart (No. 328) are the top-two seeds for the week-long tournament, Karan Singh (ranked 413) is the top Indian in fray who is seeded sixth.

Among the four main draw encounters on Monday, India's Sidharth Rawat will face seventh seed Maximus Jones of Thailand and wild card entrants -- Dev Javia and Maan Kesharwani -- take on fifth seed Ognjen Milic of Serbia and unseeded Dominik Palan of Czech Republic respectively.

Results (prefix denotes seedings, Indians unless mentioned): Qualifying round-1: Alt-Christopher Papa (USA) bt 10-Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 5-7, 6-3, 7-5; 6-Ronit Karki (USA) bt WC-Aradhya Kshitij 6-3, 6-2; 8-Volodymyr Iakubenko (Ukr) bt Aryan Lakshmanan 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-3; 1-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt Alt-Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha 6-1, 6-4; 4-Naoya Honda (Jpn) bt WC-Prakaash Sarran 6-1, 6-1; Alt-Parth Aggarwal bt 12-Kabir Hans (Ind) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; Tomohiro Masabayashi (Jpn) bt Sergey Betov 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; 5-Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) bt Alt-Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3; Adil Kalyanpur bt 3-Nitin Kumar Sinha 0-6, 6-4, 6-3; 7-Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) bt Alt-Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3; 2-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) bt WC-Gandharv Gourav Kothapalli 6-4, 6-2; 9-Aditya Vishal Balsekar bt WC-Vishal Vasudev Mahesh Kumar 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Qualifier Dino refuses to fade

ROME, AFP: Dino Prizmic (**in pic**) followed up knocking out Novak Djokovic from the Italian Open by beating France's Ugo Humbert 6-1, 7-5 on Sunday to reach the last 16 in Rome.

Alexander Zverev kept up his bid for a third title at the Foro Italico with a straight-sets win over Alexander Blockx, 6-1, 6-4 on centre court where the threat of rain looms large.

Naomi Osaka could face three-time Rome champion Iga Swiatek in the last 16 of the women's tournament after easily seeing off Diana Schnaider 6-1, 6-2.

Prizmic had to qualify for the main draw but the Croatian player looks like he could be a contender after another brilliant display of power and precision on clay.

As it stands Prizmic will already be up 11 places to 68th come Monday.

Mikulskyte crowned champ

Justina Mikulskyte

TUMAKURU, DHNS

The ITF W35 Tumakuru Open came to an unfortunate end on Sunday as top seed Justina Mikulskyte was crowned champion after second seed Zuzanna Pawlikowska was forced to retire due to injury in the singles final at the Tumakuru District Tennis Association courts.

Pawlikowska, who had already withdrawn from the doubles final on Saturday owing to a shoulder injury, showed courage by taking the court for the title clash despite discomfort.

The title marked the eighth ITF singles crown for Mikulskyte. Along with the trophy, the Lithuanian pocketed a winner's cheque of USD 4,860 and earned 35 valuable WTA ranking points. Pawlikowska, received USD 2,637 and 23 WTA points for finishing runner-up.

Result (prefix denotes seeding): Women's final: 1-Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) 1-0 (retd)

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com